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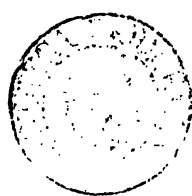


AN
A P O L O G Y
FOR THE
L I F E
OF
GEORGE ANNE BELLAMY.



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GEORGE ANNE BELLAMY.







BELLAMY'S APOLOGY VOL. V.

Correspondency on the Steps of Westminster Bridge.

Printed for J. Bell British Library Strand London March 1st 1786. —

AN
A P O L O G Y
FOR THE
L I F E
OF
GEORGE ANNE BELLAMY,
LATE OF COVENT-GARDEN THEATRE.

WRITTEN BY HERSELF.

To which is annexed,
Her original Letter to JOHN CALCRAFT, Esq.
advertised to be published in October 1767,
but which was then violently suppressed.

"The Web of our Life is of a mingled Yarn, Good and Ill
together; our Virtues would be proud, if our Faults whipt
them not; and our Crimes would despair, if they were not
cherished by our Virtues."

All's Well that Ends Well, Act 4, Scene iii.

THE THIRD EDITION.

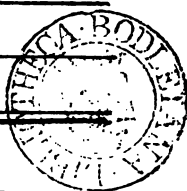
IN FIVE VOLUMES.

VOL. V.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
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210. m. 839.



A N
A P O L O G Y
F O R T H E
L I F E
O F
GEORGE ANNE BELLAMY.

L E T T E R XCI.

December 22, 17—

I Now found all my theatrical expectations frustrated. Although, but a few days before, they seemed to be resuming their wonted splendour, and bid fair to be productive of at least some years of unclouded sunshine, in a moment an envious gloom darkened the prospect. Transient, as “when a
“fable cloud turns forth her silver lining
“to the night,” was the flattering hope. But such was my lot.

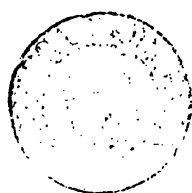
I could by no means have wished for an engagement, unless it was on condition of being reinstated in most of the parts that had been in my possession, together with my quota of new ones; and as to requesting a favour of that kind from Mr. Woodward, I reprobated the very thought. I could not for a

VOL. V.

B

moment





that she always *did him the honour* to consult him upon every slight indisposition of her friends, as well as herself, and that *gratis*. The Doctor immediately came, and apologized for not joining us at dinner, as he had been invited. He informed me, that he was rather late, and recollecting, when he got near Brewer-street, that he was in mourning, he would not commit such a solecism in good manners, as to appear in sables at my grand gala; he therefore returned, and dined elsewhere.

Doctor Macdonald did all he could to assist my mother for ten or twelve days; but finding every medicine he prescribed prove ineffectual, he desired that I would call in some other advice. I therefore immediately sent for Doctor Schomberg, a gentleman as eminent for his wit, as distinguished in his profession. When he came, he pronounced her complaint to be a lethargic palsy; adding, that there were no hopes of her recovery, as it was not in the power of the whole *materia medica* to restore her. He ordered both her head and feet to be blistered, but without any good effect arising from it. She lingered for some time, during which she had no interval of sense; and whilst I was kneeling by her bed-side, kissing her hand, she cast her eyes upon me with a benignant smile, and left this world without a pang.

The grief I felt at the loss of my much-loved parent, was lessened by the consideration, that she had every assistance this world could afford her. The poor had reason to regret her departure, as she was benevolent to an excess. Though a rigid oeconomist where she herself was only concerned, she was liberal almost to a fault when any object of compassion excited her tender feelings. I had the satisfaction of seeing those intimates who esteemed her whilst living, severely lament her when dead. As to myself, death deprived me not only of an anxious parent, but of a kind friend. Happy would it have been for me, had I always listened to her prudent admonitions ! I should then have been a stranger to error, and consequently to its sure attendants, anguish and misfortune. And I now most severely felt the truth of the adage, " That we never know the value of what we possess, till we are made sensible of it by its loss."

As the landlord of the house in which my mother resided had promised never to raise the rent whilst she or myself chose to continue his tenant, and it was greatly under-let, I determined to keep it. Every thing my parent died possessed of having originated from me, I thought I had an undoubted right to whatever that might be ; and my brother having resigned all pretensions to

her property, I thought it needless to take out letters of administration.

I had invited a lady and her two daughters to be with me during my mother's illness; and she was so kind as to continue her visit, in order to keep me from the melancholy with which a mind so susceptible as mine must naturally be oppressed. As my mother had always lived in the style of a gentlewoman, I had her buried as such. Those about me endeavoured to persuade me not to go to her funeral, but their remonstrances were in vain. As I had paid her every possible attention while living, I was determined, cost what pangs it would, to pay the last tribute of duty, by attending her remains to the grave.

I must here observe, that I cannot help thinking, but that persons who pretend to such over-nice feelings, as to be prevented thereby from paying these last respectful offices to a deceased relation or friend, shew an unnatural and false delicacy. I consider them as an indispensable duty, and a debt of nature; and will venture to call an omission of them unpardonable affectation. Else, why should those of the lower ranks be deprived of that extreme susceptibility. Dame Nature being their guide, she conducts them, with decent sorrow, to the grave of those they loved whilst living.

Now prepare yourself to hear another of those unexpected and ill-natured strokes of fortune,
with

with which she has so frequently belaboured me. So quick is generally the transition, that she might be said to give with one hand, and immediately to rob me of the newly-possessed gift with the other. As if the fickle Goddess had determined that I should never retain the possession of any property, let it be thrown into my lap by her from whatever quarter it would.

My visitor, Mrs. Butler, and myself, were sitting together in conversation one evening, soon after the death of my mother, when a loud and violent rap at the door alarmed us. As such an incident was unusual, I ordered the servant not to open the door, but to enquire what occasioned it from the area. Upon her going out for that purpose, she was informed, that if she did not immediately open the door, it would be broke open, as they had got the broad seal. Not knowing what was meant by having the broad seal, I demanded from the window their business. To this they answered, that I should be informed when they were let in ; and if that was not done presently, they had authority to break open the door.

Finding there was no probability of preventing their entrance, I ordered the door to be opened ; when five or six fellows rushed in, and took possession, in the name of that honour to his *honourable* profession, my Cousin Crawford.

That worthy and conscientious man no sooner heard of my mother's death, and found that I had been so imprudent as not to make any legal claim of her property, than he took out letters of administration, by swearing himself her legitimate heir. Fearless of the iniquity of the measure, or the consequence of it, my *honest* kinsman thought if he could but appropriate her effects to his own use, he would set at defiance a future reckoning. He accordingly adopted this mode with success.

As it happened not to be term time, I had no resource but patience ; for I found it to no manner of purpose to endeavour to bring the savages by which I was surrounded, to reason. A fruitless altercation indeed took place, but they persisted in my quitting the premises that night. It was by this time past eleven o'clock ; Mrs. Butler's children were in bed ; and where to get a lodging at that late hour I knew not. At last I thought of sending to Mr. Woodward, who had taken a large house in Leicester-street, in order to let part of it. That gentleman consented, with great cheerfulness, to accommodate us till I could provide myself, though he was obliged to get out of his bed to receive us.

The next day I sent to inform Mr. Gordon, the undertaker that had deposited the remains of my much-loved mother, of what had happened, and desired him to look to the administrator for the expences of the funeral. He sent

sent for answer, that as I had ordered the funeral, he should expect me to pay for it ; that it was a very genteel one ; and he desired any one of the trade to furnish one more elegant for fifty guineas, though he should only charge me forty-two. As Mr. Gordon was a neighbour, and my mother was so greatly respected that numbers attended her manes without invitation, I was in hopes he would have been my friend upon the occasion, and have endeavoured to ease me of that load ; but no ! he chose to be his own friend, and to fix the debt upon me, without giving himself any trouble.

What made this event the more vexatious was, that the seven hundred pounds, owing by the Widow Lock to my mother, as already mentioned, was to have been paid the Wednesday following. In the confusion and fright I was in when I left the house, I forgot the papers relative to this debt. As they were placed in a china closet in the parlour, that they might be ready when wanted, the wretches who had taken possession, probably thought them of no value, and had thrown them by as waste paper. So that all I got by the death of my dear mother, was a poor girl she recommended to my charge, and who became an additional burthen to me. I never knew she was a relation, till my dying mother enjoined me to find her out, and take care of her.

The effects belonging to my mother were sold for an old song, as the saying is ; but as the house was let to me, though only verbally, the fixtures could not be disposed of. I commenced a suit in the Commons against the depredator, which I should undoubtedly have gained, as I was born in wedlock ; but an unexpected circumstance prevented me from receiving any redress. The wretch having spent all the money that arose from the sale of the effects, and having besides bullied some tenants that rented the stables belonging to the house out of what money was due ; and being now apprehensive of the consequences of his infamous transactions ; he took the Grave-end boat in order to fly his country. Justice, however, here overtook him ; for being much intoxicated, he fell into the river, and was never heard of more.

Had he received the desert due to his crimes, he would have been exalted instead of sunk. In this opinion I dare say you will readily concur with me, when I relate to you the following instance of his rapaciousness and inhumanity ; though indeed from those I have already presented you with, I think I need not doubt of your entertaining the utmost abhorrence for his conduct.

This unnatural being, (I will not debase the name of father by bestowing it on him,) kept his son in prison, for refusing to join with him in disposing of an annuity in which he had an interest,

interest. This was an annuity of fifty pounds a year in the Exchequer, the remains of two hundred ; Crawford's wife having, during her life-time, joined with him in disposing of the other hundred and fifty. He had also spent ten thousand pounds in money ; part of which, in justice, ought to have been mine, as it devolved to him from another branch of the Sykes's family.

In order to terrify the lad into a compliance with his requisition, the inhuman monster threw him, although yet a minor, into the Fleet Prison, after having arrested him for board and lodging ; and here this unfortunate young man remained till Crawford's death, as he had resolution enough to bear a disagreeable confinement, rather than consent to so unjust a proposal.

Must there not be some place, red with uncommon vengeance, where a severe retribution will await such complicated crimes, such a continued system of dishonesty ? There must ; there will !—Though he was able to fly from that punishment the laws of his country were on the point of inflicting on him, (for tardy-footed justice had nearly overtaken him) yet he will not have it in his power to eschew her rigorous grasp in that state, where all accounts of this nature are settled : The day of reckoning must come.

I was now obliged to send word to the Bishop of Gloucester that I could not wait on

him to receive the seven hundred pounds due from Mrs. Lock to my mother, as the papers relative to the debt were lost. To which his Lordship returned for answer, that he could by no means think of paying the money, unless I could give up the obligations, as he should still be liable to pay it to those who might find them.

Thus, without being able to receive a shilling of my mother's property, through the dishonesty of my worthy Cousin, I found I had the funeral expences to pay, together with some demands she had incurred which I had promised to discharge; and likewise the costs of the suit I had commenced in the Commons, which amounted to seventeen pounds. So that I think I might say that, according to my usual good luck, I *gained a loss* upon the occasion. But strange events sometimes produce strange consequences, as was the case with this; for, soon after, I was honoured with a visit from Lord Hampden, whom I had not seen since a child, who presented me with a bank note for twenty pounds, in as *pompous* a manner as if it had been a million. G. A. B.

L E T T E R XCII.

Dec. 29, 17—

IF I shall not be thought worthy of any encomiums for the matter contained in my letters, or for my manner of inditing them,

I flatter myself you will at least think me entitled to some praise for my indefatigable application in writing them, for the more speedy gratification of your curiosity. A reference to the dates of my letters will convince you, that I have devoted almost every hour, since I first began the task, to the employment. Indeed, a long confinement, occasioned by indisposition and distresses, has not a little tended to accelerate my undertaking; and as neither of these causes are yet removed, there is a probability that I shall be able to proceed with the same expedition, and that it will not be long before I shall be able to put an end to my tale, and with it to your expectant wishes. For this purpose I will now proceed, without any further circumscription.

Having sent for my furniture from Strand on the Green, I was soon settled again in Brewer-street. Comte Haslang having heard of my distress, told me he would pay for the furniture of my first floor, which came to one hundred and twenty pounds; and desired I would fix a time of payment with the upholsterer. Mr. Woodward complimented me with two capital basso-relievos for the door, three handsome girandoles, a beautiful grate, &c. &c. and as every person with whom I was intimate presented me with some ornament or other, my house, in appearance, was a little cabinet.

Just

Just at this time Mr. Calcraft died. It was announced in the papers that he had left me a considerable sum, but the report was entirely without foundation; my name was no other-wise mentioned in the will, than as the mother of his children. I believe I might venture to say, that he was not regretted even by those to whom he left his fortune. The vexation he must feel at knowing himself to be despised and neglected to such a degree, as to be able to purchase no other company than that of a few wretched dependents, greatly affected his pride, for of *true spirit* he had not a spark. Not all his riches, his sumptuous dwellings, nor his luxurious wines, could procure him one respectable individual as a companion: He was therefore obliged, as I have been informed, to take up with his clerk, an attorney, and I suppose an exciseman, as a person of that calling generally makes one in such a group; for even his brother the General declined going near him. I must acquaint you, that he promised to leave a handsome provision for his intimate, the clerk just mentioned, which I conclude was his inducement for bestowing so much time on his despised master; instead of which, he only left him the immense sum of *a hundred pounds*. A deed which tallies with the many *generous deeds* I have already related of him.

He left behind him a princely fortune, but without bequeathing a shilling to his wife, or
even

even mentioning her name; a failure by which she recovered a third of his estate, as well as of his personal fortune. This, however, has involved the estate in such difficulties, that I find his debts are not paid to this day. Every body seemed to rejoice when Mrs. Calcraft's suit for the recovery of her claim was attended with success; and I can sincerely say, that no person received greater pleasure upon the occasion than I did, as I have been informed she is one of the best of women.

At length the stipulated day came, when I was to pay Mr. Cullen, the upholsterer, for the furniture of my first floor, and which Comte Haslang had promised to enable me to do. I had appointed four o'clock for the hour of payment, and had wrote to his Lordship to acquaint him that was the time fixed. Mrs. Tuffnal and the Secretary were with me, when I received an answer, written upon a quarter of a sheet of paper, and sealed at the corner, like a common note.

I opened it; and finding it to begin in the usual style, of "I wonder you will not get an engagement," I concluded that the remainder was of the *same* tenor, in order to excuse a breach of promise; and as I could not possibly suppose any bill was inclosed in a note of that size and form, I immediately threw it into the fire. Upon which Mr. Killroff jokingly said, "Do you treat all your billet-doux in that manner?" "A billet-doux!" I replied;

"It

Mr. Gordon, the undertaker, beginning to be very pressing for his bill for my mother's funeral, I endeavoured to borrow the money, which was forty guineas. Upon this occasion a young gentleman of my acquaintance recommended me to one Cohan, a Jew money-lender, who promised to get me the cash upon my notes in a few days. In order to make them the more negotiable, he desired I would give them in two separate notes, payable to himself, and at different dates. Being perfectly unacquainted with transactions of this nature, and not entertaining the least suspicion of the man's honesty, I did as he desired me; and having this prospect of being able to discharge Mr. Gordon's bill, I sent to let him know that I would do it in the course of the following week.

Encouraged by Mrs. Calcraft's success, I began to think of my annuity, which had not been paid for a long time. I accordingly sent to have Mr. Wedderburne's opinion; when I was informed it must be at my own expence. To this I consented; but not being able to offer the usual fee with the case, and the person I depended on not being willing to advance it, the affair lay dormant, at the time I imagined I had the first advice in the kingdom.

A week passed after I had given the Jew my notes, without my hearing anything from him; when upon sending to the young gentleman who had recommended him, I was informed that my *little* Isaac was gone off; and I heard

no

no further tidings, either of him or my notes, till they were presented for payment.

There is nothing, I am told, calls louder for the interference of the Legislature, than the frequent frauds of some of the present race of advertising money-lenders, to whom the appellation of Swindlers has been justly given. Those who are unfortunately necessitated to apply to them, allured by the specious promises held forth in their advertisements, doubt not of receiving from them a ready assistance; instead of which, they generally find themselves more deeply involved, if not irretrievably ruined. If once you deliver into their hands any notes or bills, it is a hundred to one if ever you receive any value for them; or, if you do, it is but a proportionably small part. And as these are usually paid away to tradesmen who can swear they have given a valuable consideration for them, your plea, of not having received any yourself, is of no avail. Nor have you any hopes of redress from contesting the payment of your notes. All the consolation you receive in a court of justice is, that you should not have been so silly as to pay attention to the delusive advertisements. Many, very many, I have been informed, have reason, at this very hour, to lament their having listened to the specious pretexts of these insatiable harpies, some of whom live in ease and dissipation upon the spoils of the unfortunate.

Mr.

Mr. Davy's executors, who had revived the suit relative to my annuity, now appeared to be in earnest; and as Mr. Calcraft's executors seemed to wish to keep the estate in law, in order to retain the management of a property, that from its immense value must undoubtedly be productive of some benefit, they determined to contest it with them. The latter had even the folly or madness to send to me, to desire I would join in the bill against myself, and those who had advanced me the money upon it. This you may be assured I refused to do. On the contrary, notwithstanding my natural aversion to all pecuniary business, I determined to prosecute the affair against them with vigour.

The only thing that retarded my design, was the want of money to carry it into execution; for what I received from the gentleman who had hired my house, was devoted to pay the rent of it. I however resolved to wait on Mr. Wedderburne, now Lord Loughborough, to enquire what opinion he had given upon the suit, and what was necessary to be done further in the prosecution of it.

Lord Huntingdon, whom I had formerly the honour of knowing, was just returned from making the tour of Europe with his nephews. As every person who ever heard of that Nobleman, must allow him to be one of the brightest ornaments of nobility, his liberality of sentiment adding graces to his other eminent virtues, I was encouraged to solicit his
assistance

assistance upon this emergency ; I therefore wrote to him, and acquainted him with my purpose.

His Lordship immediately called upon me, and with that elegance which attends all his actions, presented me with a rouleau, greatly exceeding what I then thought I had occasion for. He at the same time requested, that if in future I should be pressed, I would make him my banker. A woman is never so highly flattered, as when she is thought worthy the notice of *distinguished* characters ; which my Lord Huntingdon is in an eminent degree. And a promise he then made me, to bestow upon me some of his leisure hours, I esteemed more valuable than even the necessary and valuable present he had given me. I must not omit to inform you, that in order to apologize for a few minutes delay before he waited upon me, his Lordship dispatched a relation, who afterwards attended him during his visit, to acquaint me with it. This information will perhaps appear to you to be needless, but you will find that it is not so. It is absolutely necessary to introduce this gentleman here, in order that you might be acquainted with him at a future period.

I had scarcely time to congratulate myself upon the real satisfaction I felt from this event, when I was informed, that the cause I had been advised to enter into with Mr. Gordon, relative to the expences of my mother's funeral, which
undoubt-

undoubtedly the administrator ought to have paid, was given against me; and, if not immediately settled, I should be sued to execution. In addition to this, as misfortunes seldom come alone, I was served at the same moment with copies of writs for the notes I had put into Cohan's hands. And, to crown all, a draft drawn upon me from my son Harry, who was abroad, was presented to me for payment.

Such an interruption to the pleasing reflections I was indulging, threw once more a gloom over my mind, which put it out of my power to wait upon Mr. Wedderburne as I had intended; I therefore wrote a line to Mr. Woodward, requesting that he would do it for me. That gentleman being abroad when my note came, he was obliged to postpone going till the next day; by which time the term being ended, he was not able to meet with him. By such a train of untoward incidents, was my case prevented from coming to the knowledge of that great lawyer. And thus by *intervening* circumstances, which counteract the best intentions, are the most important designs oftentimes frustrated.

The demand for the expences of my mother's funeral being so very urgent, and amounting, through the additional law-charges, to near double the original bill, I thought my personal safety required that it should be first discharged. I accordingly appropriated the money for which I was indebted to Lord Huntingdon's generosity,

generosity, and which was intended for another purpose, to this.

A discovery soon ensued ; for his Lordship meeting Counsellor Wedderburne some short time after, very kindly enquired whether there were any hopes of success for me in the prosecution of my suit ; when the Counsellor answered, to his Lordship's great surprize, that he knew nothing of such a suit. Nor, indeed, was it possible that he should know any thing of a suit in my name ; for, as I afterwards found, it was indiscreetly carried on *then* in the name of the claimants, Mr. Davy's executors, who had even made me a party against my own cause, by joining me, in their application to the court, with Mr. Calcraft's executors ; and this occasioned the latter's sending to me when they filed their answer.

Lord Huntingdon, justly incensed at my apparent duplicity, wrote me a letter full of the most severe reproaches ; saying every thing in it that a generous heart must feel, when it supposes itself the dupe of deception. This letter his Lordship sent by his relation before-mentioned, to whom I explained the whole affair ; notwithstanding I was so greatly shocked at the contents of the epistle, that I could scarcely summon fortitude sufficient to do it. Duplicity being a crime of the first magnitude in my estimation, and with which it has ever been my boast that I have been totally unacquainted,

ed, a charge of this nature, consequently, could not fail of giving me *uncommon* pain.

Yet my anxiety of clearing myself from so cutting an impeachment, gave me courage to smother my feelings, in order to exonerate myself. In doing this, I dwelt much upon the happiness I had flattered myself with receiving from his Lordship's promised visits; which, I said, must reflect infinite credit upon those he honoured with his acquaintance; as the brilliancy of his talents, his acknowledged sense, wit, and good-breeding, not only rendered him conspicuous in all the foreign Courts, but justly entitled his Lordship to the encomium passed on him by the late Lord Chesterfield, who pronounced him "one of the brightest ornaments of the English Nobility." This, I continued, caused the pain produced by his displeasure to be the more sensibly felt.

From the fervent manner in which I expressed myself upon this occasion, (for, as I have said before, I know not a medium when my sensibility is awakened,) my visitor threw out something of an inuendo of his Lordship's having formerly been a gallant of mine. I assured him that he was mistaken; which impressed his Lordship's bounty the deeper on my heart. The moment I had uttered these words, the round face of the gentleman lost its rotundity, and lengthened into an extreme oblong. He immediately arose from his seat, saying, "Then, indeed,

indeed, it alters the case." And muttering some words to himself, which I could not distinguish the purport of, he hastily took his leave.

I wrote soon after to Mr. Wedderburne, to desire permission to wait on him at his first leisure, but was not honoured with an answer; which I suppose was owing to the multiplicity of business he was engaged in. I was therefore obliged to content myself with the hopes, that if ever I should get the suit, it would afford me an opportunity of explaining the affair to Lord Huntingdon.—The only mode of atoning for a *real* error, or excusing a *supposed* one, is by an open and unreserved explanation. This is the method I have now pursued; and I hope it will tend to imprint on his Lordship's mind, if my "Apology" should fall into his hands, a more favourable idea of the transaction than he has hitherto entertained of it. He has, till now, been able to judge only from appearances; and these, I acknowledge, have been against me. But the foregoing elucidation having now placed every circumstance in its true light, I flatter myself it will restore me to his Lordship's good opinion, on which I set no common value.—I must just be permitted to repeat, that there is no one living, who can hold even the appearance of duplicity in greater detestation than myself.

G. A. B.

 LETTER XCIII.

Jan. 4, 17—

I Think I informed you, that upon my leaving Parliament-street, Lord Tyrawley had taken my son Harry Calcraft, and placed him at an academy near Greenwich, in order to be near him when at Blackheath, where he mostly resided. His Lordship was particularly fond of the boy, whom he seemed to think a nonpareil; and was greatly concerned at finding him bent upon going to sea. But as my young gentleman was not to be contradicted, he was sent out as a midshipman on board a man of war. When he heard of his father's death, he resolved to quit his nautical employment, which he was now tired of, and turn fine gentleman; a profession he was, indeed, much better qualified for than the former.

About this period Lord Tyrawley died. An incident that did not much affect me at the time it happened, as his Lordship's faculties had been so much impaired for a long while before he departed this life, that his dissolution was rather to be wished for than dreaded. It is very singular (but I think I have made a similar remark before) that those who are endowed with talents superior to the generality of their fellow-creatures, have most commonly the unhappiness to survive their

mental qualities. And in every considerate mind it must give rise to the most humiliating sensations, to behold those we look up to as the phænomenas of the age, reduced again to a state of childhood. A circumstance which fully confirms the truth of Solomon's assertion, "that all is vanity and vexation of spirit." Or, as Shakspeare finely describes it *,

" Last scene of all,

" That ends this strange eventful history,

" Is second childishness, and mere oblivion,

" Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans every
" thing."

Miss O'Hara formally announced to me his Lordship's death, and the day appointed for his funeral; which was, it seems, fixed for the Sunday following his demise. His Lordship had ordered by his will, that his remains should be deposited in Chelsea Hospital, among the old veterans who had so often fought under his command. As he did not expect that any compliment would be paid him by Government, he desired that his funeral might be a private one, and half a guinea given to each soldier that attended. Miss O'Hara to obey her father's will, to the *very letter* of it, read each man who *had actually fought* with his Lordship; and as I believe there was only about twenty-five of those living, they only were directed to attend.

* A you like it, Act II. Scene IX.

As I supposed his Lordship's funeral rites had been celebrated on the day which had been announced to me, I went into mourning. But some days after, having a great deal of company, we went into the drawing-room. We had not been there long, before we observed a hearse splendidly adorned with escutcheons and trophies of honour. Upon this we all flocked to the windows; and as it came from the undertaker's the corner of Golden-square, we had a full view of this gorgeous receptacle of the dead. But how great was my astonishment, when I beheld that the escutcheons bore the three Black Lions, his Lordship's arms. I was no longer mistress of myself. What I could support at a distance, upon a nearer view, struck me with the most severe anguish, and overwhelmed me with grief.

Upon enquiry I found, that a public burial had been offered by Government, in order to pay due respect to his Lordship's memory and valour, but was declined by his much favoured daughter. Who alledged the fulfilling her father's desire, as expressed in the will, as a reason for her refusal. I am, however, persuaded, that could her pride have been gratified without the expence of the half guineas, as every pensioner in the hospital, had the offer been accepted of would have walked, she would gladly have consented.

consented. This had occasioned the ceremony to be postponed.

Just after this event, my son Harry returned from abroad; which, to a mother who loved him to excess, was no small happiness. He continued with me for some months; but having the misfortune to connect himself with one of the worst of women, to my no small mortification he removed to a lodging, where he might take greater liberties than he could at the house of a parent.

About the same period, my eldest son George Metham returned from America, having there signalized himself by his courage and intrepidity, particularly in taking a fort of some importance with a handful of men; by way of recompence, he was promoted to a company; which, though obtained by purchase, was a singular mark of distinction at his age.

His return made me completely happy for the time, as he was not only the best of sons, but a sincere friend and affectionate brother. And though he could not boast the brilliancy of parts with Harry, he might value himself upon the strictest honour, and one of the best of hearts. His first care was to assist me; which he did to the extent of his power. He then went in search of my younger son, who had enthralled himself greatly; and notwithstanding he was under age, had got into confinement.

Upon the demise of Barry, Mr. Woodward was displeased at the omission; not considering the improbability of any office insuring the life of a person, whose bad state of health made it so very precarious. He, however, immediately applied to a neighbour, whose name was Cornish, and requested that he would be one of his executors, and at the same time to send his attorney to make a fresh will. There were very little hopes, when this happened, of his recovery, as he had been in the most excruciating torments for four months, and every day his decay became more and more visible.

My attention he had every claim to. He consulted me upon the alteration of his will, which gave me the most sensible mortification, and desired me to make choice of some person to be executor with Cornish. As I have at all times (which I have very frequently had occasion to observe) an insuperable objection to dispute about pecuniary affairs, and his illness making me apprehensive that he might take umbrage at my attempting to contradict him, I thought myself obliged to submit. I accordingly requested William Bromfield, Esq; to accept the trust.

I had not indeed, any particular reason to expect the friendship of that gentleman. He had attended me at my mother's when I was a girl, for a complaint in my finger,
which

which it was feared would turn to a mortification. And when I was so unfortunate as to reside in Parliament-street, he had made me a request I could not possibly comply with, another gentleman of the profession having every right to claim the little interest I had, from the very great attention he had always paid me. But notwithstanding this, I imagined from his behaviour towards me at the present juncture, where I had an opportunity of seeing him every day with his dying patient, that I should meet in him an indulgent protector.

I have always had the highest esteem for Mr. Bromfield; and notwithstanding I have been treated with the utmost inhumanity, from the executors refusing to act, and leaving me totally in the power of their attorney, I acquit Mr. Bromfield; as to my certain knowledge many falsehoods have been repeated to him to poison his mind against me, by a person, in order to prevent coming to a *regular* account.

I am sorry to say, that many are the instances I could give of the inhuman treatment I have received upon this occasion. In the first place, he involved what was bequeathed to me by Mr. Woodward in two law-suits, one with the brother of my deceased friend, and the other with the executor and executrix of Mr. Barry, whom he sued here in England, instead of employing Mr. Burton in

Dublin, who had the *warrants* to the bond left with him, to enter judgment on Crow-street Theatre, in case of non-payment of the stipulated sums. Nor is the account he has sent me, by any means the same as that delivered me by Mr. Cornish, who acted as executor for a time. He neither gives credit for the monies left in his hands, nor for what he has received since.

I mention these circumstances, in hopes that some gentleman of the law, who is possessed of knowledge, joined with humanity, will favour me with his assistance upon this occasion, and endeavour to rescue a distressed and ill-treated woman out of such hands. That there are gentlemen of the law, who are as conspicuous for their probity and philanthropy as for their abilities, I am well assured, notwithstanding my severe strictures on one branch of the *profession* in a former letter.—To such I beg leave to recommend my case; and, for their perusal, shall insert a copy of Mr. Woodward's will, from which they will be able to form a judgment of my claims; and I flatter myself, that some mode of redress might be found out and pursued.

To Lord Mansfield, that great luminary of the law, do I likewise look up. And I will most humbly hope, from his Lordship's well-known love of justice, and his humanity,
that

that the cause of a depressed woman will not be thought unworthy of his attention.

Copy of Mr. Woodward's WILL.

" IN THE NAME OF GOD, Amen. I
 " Henry Woodward, of Chapel-street, Gros-
 " venor-place, in the parish of St. George,
 " Hanover-square, in the county of Mid-
 " dlesex, being of sound mind, memory,
 " and understanding, do make and publish
 " this my last will and testament, as fol-
 " lows :

" First, I do order and direct, that my
 " funeral expences, and my just debts, be
 " fully paid and satisfied; and the expences
 " of proving this my will.

" Item. I give to William Bromfield, Esq;
 " one hundred guineas, and my onyx ring;
 " and to my neighbour, Mr. Mason Cornish,
 " twenty guineas for a ring.

" Item. I give and bequeath to my friend,
 " George Anne Bellamy, my gold watch,
 " chain, and seals. And also my plate,
 " jewels, linen, and china, and the whole of
 " the furniture of the house in Chapel-street
 " aforesaid.

" Item. I give and bequeath to my ex-
 " cutors, herein after named, and the sur-
 " vivor of them, and the executors and
 " administrators of the survivor of them,
 " seven hundred pounds in the three per
 " cent. consolidated bank annuities, stand-

“ ing in my name in the books of the Go-
“ vernor and Company of the Bank of Eng-
“ land, in *trust*, to and for the several uses,
“ intents, and purposes herein after men-
“ tioned; that is to say, in *trust*, to receive
“ the interest, dividends, and produce there-
“ of, and pay the same, as it from time to
“ time becomes due and payable, unto my
“ brother John Woodward, tallow-chandler;
“ at Cripplegate, London, during his na-
“ tural life; and from and immediately
“ after his decease, in *trust*, to sell and dis-
“ pose of the said seven hundred pounds
“ three per cent. consolidated bank an-
“ nuities, and to lay out and invest the mo-
“ nies arising from the sale thereof, in the
“ purchase of an annuity to be secured in
“ their own name, and at their own discre-
“ tion, for and during the natural life of
“ George Anne Bellamy. And I do hereby
“ direct, and it is my express will, intent,
“ and desire, that my said executors and
“ trustees, and the survivor of them, do
“ and shall, from time to time, receive the
“ said annuity, as the same shall become
“ quarterly due and payable, and then pay
“ the same personally to the said George Anne
“ Bellamy; and that her receipt alone shall,
“ from time to time, be a discharge to my
“ executors and trustees for the same. And
“ it is my further express will, intent, and
“ direction, that the said annuity shall be
“ for

“ for her sole use ; and that the money arising therefrom shall not be liable to the payment of the debts, or to the sale or assignment of the said George Anne Bellamy, or to the payment of the debts, power, controul, of any person she may hereafter marry. But in case of the death of the said George Anne Bellamy in the life-time of my said brother, then in *trust*, from and immediately after her death, to transfer the said seven hundred pounds three per cent. consolidated annuities to him, his executors, administrators, and assigns.

“ All the rest, residue, and remainder of my personal estate whatsoever or where-soever, that I shall be possessed of at the time of my decease, I do hereby give and bequeath unto my executors hereafter named, in *trust*, to sell and dispose of the same, with all convenient speed, next after my decease ; and with the monies arising from such sale thereof, purchase an annuity, to be secured in their own names, and at their own discretion, for and during the natural life of the said George Anne Bellamy. And I do hereby direct, and it is my express will and desire, that my said executors, and the survivors of them, do and shall, from time to time, receive the said annuity, as the same shall from time to time become quarterly due and payable, and then pay the same personally to
“ the

“ the said George Anne Bellamy; and whose
 “ receipt alone shall, from time to time, be a
 “ discharge to my executors and trustees for
 “ the same. And it is my further express
 “ will, intent, and direction, that the said
 “ annuity shall be for her sole use; and that
 “ the money arising therefrom shall not be
 “ liable to any debts, or to the sale or as-
 “ signment of the said George Anne Bellamy,
 “ or to the payment of debts, power, or
 “ controul, or disposal of any person she may
 “ hereafter marry.

“ And lastly, I do hereby nominate, con-
 “ stitute, and appoint, the aforesaid Wil-
 “ liam Bromfield, Esq; and the said Mason
 “ Cornish, executors and trustees of this my
 “ will, hereby revoking and making void
 “ all former wills by me at any time here-
 “ tofore made, and hereby declaring this
 “ my last will and testament. In witness
 “ whereof, I the said Henry Woodward have,
 “ to this my last will and testament, set my
 “ hand and seal, this 20th day of January,
 “ in the year of our Lord 1777.

“ Signed,

“ HENRY WOODWARD.

“ Signed, sealed, published, and declared
 “ by the said Henry Woodward, as and
 “ for

“ for his last will and testament, in the
“ presence of us,

“ ANNE PITT,

“ E. WILLET.

“ No. 89, Wardour-street, Soho.”

Thus have I laid before you (I address myself again to you) the contents of the last will and testament of my dear departed friend. Nothing can be more clearly expressed, or more plainly intended for my benefit than it is.—One would imagine, that it was next to impossible to counteract the kind intent of it.—And yet, from the most unaccountable perversion of it, no benefit has, as yet, arisen to me from it.—Could the worthy testator look out from his grave, and see what steps have been taken, his honest heart would bound with indignant pulsations.—But I will not anticipate the circumstances.

G. A. B.

L E T T E R XCIV.

January 18, 17—

THE very great attention I paid Mr. Woodward during his illness greatly affected my health, as he seemed not to be satisfied with any other person's being near him, or doing any thing for him, but the surgeons and myself. Indeed, his situation was so critical, that had he not been treated with the utmost care, he could not have been retained in this world so long. During the seven months of his indisposition, I went into a bed but eleven nights. The eve of his departure I was so greatly indisposed, that nature, wearied out, could support no longer; and I was obliged to retire, leaving him to the care of a gentlewoman who was my intimate, and who, as he was very partial to her, shared in giving her assistance.

He bore this long and painful illness with the greatest resignation and fortitude. The morning of his death, Mr. Bromfield hastened out of his room in tears; for upon his saying, "God b'w'ye, Harry!" my dying friend replied, with the utmost composure, and an affecting tenderness in the modulation of his voice, "Farewel! I shall never see you more!" When I approached the bed to give him his medicine, he regretted not having

having sufficient power to repay my unwearied attention; and then taking me by the hand with some agitation, he said, "I am going. Lord have mercy upon me!" and expired.

Thus ended a man, who was as eminent for rectitude, honour, probity, morality, and religion, as he was allowed great in his profession. And though eulogies to his memory were unnecessary, his worth, both as an actor and as a valuable member of society, being so well known, yet it has been often a matter of surprize to me, that among the number of his friends and of his contemporaries at Merchant-Taylors School, there appeared no public tribute to his merit, except some lines upon the occasion written by the reverend Mr. Madden.

Upon his demise, I gave way to that grief I had endeavoured to smother during his life-time; and indeed, I must have been the most ungrateful woman breathing, after the repeated obligations he had conferred upon me, had I not paid every tribute to his memory. So extreme were my sorrows, that I was immediately seized with a fever, which for some days rendered me insensible.

At this time I was still indebted to Lazarus the jeweller, whom I have already mentioned. His son-in-law Solomon being his heir, upon hearing of the legacy Mr. Woodward

ward had just left me, applied to an attorney to recover the debt. This attorney, by methods which I find were not at that time uncommon, prosecuted the suit, without my knowing any thing of the commencement of it, till he had sued out an outlawry against me. He declared that he wrote to me to demand the debt, but as I never received the letter, I could not answer it; and I experienced upon the occasion, the most cruel and almost unprecedented treatment.

As soon as I was able to be moved, I was advised to go into the country, it being thought improper for me to return to my own house (in which I had a family of distinction,) till my affairs were settled. Accordingly, the upholsterer who occasionally let my house, and who was the gentleman director of the funeral of my worthy friend, was deputed to get me a lodging. He fixed upon one at No. 3, Walcot-place, Lambeth, to which place I removed.

When the mistress of the house first saw me, she apprehended I was sent there to die. This apprehension, and some other personal reasons, made her very uneasy at my having a lodging in her habitation; for though I had never spoken to my fair hostess till I entered her house, I was well acquainted with her by sight, and knew her connexions. This occasioned doubts, which afterwards

afterwards proved false ones. But her chief fear was, that I should die under her roof; of which, indeed, there appeared to be the greatest probability. So much alarmed was she at this expectation, that she declared she could never stay in the house after such an event had happened.

How weak must be the mind that indulges such timorous apprehensions! What is there in thy appearance, oh Death! which can carry terror with it to a considerate being! We know thou art the inevitable attendant on mortality; and we each of us are sensible, thou must some time or other be our sure visitor, and yet we studiously avoid every thought relative to thee.—Thy very name raises disagreeable ideas, but the sight of thee makes the generality of mankind shudder.—Death is, indeed, armed with terrors, when he seizes upon his prey in an unprepared state *, “Unhousel’d, unanoint-
“ed, unanneal’d, no reckoning made, but
“sent to their account with all their imper-
“fections on their head.” Then, indeed, is his approach alarming. But to those who endeavour by a life of virtue and piety, to obtain the favour of the great Judge of the world, he will undoubtedly prove a certain relief from

* Hamlet, Act I. Scene VIII.

“ The

- “ The whips and scorns of time ;
- “ Th’ oppressor’s wrong ; the proud man’s contumely ;
- “ The pangs of despis’d love ; the law’s delay ;
- “ The insolence of office ; and the spurns
- “ That patient merit of th’ unworthy takes ;
- “ With all the natural shocks that flesh is heir to *.”

Mr. Bromfield, and his brother the apothecary, who attended me, and to whom I take this opportunity of returning my thanks for their care and attention, came to visit me likewise at Walcot-place. They assured the gentlewoman of the house, that she need be under no apprehensions relative to the payment of my lodgings, or any incidental expences, as there was money enough.

However, till my affairs were totally settled, it was thought adviseable that I should not make use of my own name. The first that struck me, was that of West, and which I accordingly adopted. I had, indeed, at that time no right to the name of West ; not only upon account of the legal separation which had taken place between the person to whom it had once belonged and myself, but likewise from Mr. Digges’s having forfeited every pretence to the appellation, by having once more engaged at the Haymarket Theatre, under the auspices of Mr. Coleman. Contrary, as you may remember,

* Hamlet, Act III. Scene II.

to the condition, on which alone he was expressly permitted to assume it.

When I took possession of my new lodgings, I found myself without money. Having been apprehensive of disturbing the mind of my late worthy friend, as he approached the confines of eternity, I had forbore to ask him for any for some time past. Notwithstanding I knew that he had a capital sum in the hands of Mess. Drummonds, the bankers; that there was money due to him from Covent-Garden Theatre; that Mr. Foote was considerably indebted to him; and that General Calcraft owed him four hundred pounds, which I had prevailed upon Mr. Woodward to lend him; yet I rather chose to borrow money to see the *only* one of the faculty that attended him who would accept of tribute, than trouble him at that awful juncture.

Upon this occasion, the celebrated Dr. Fothergill, having heard of my distressed situation, voluntarily lent me a hundred pounds. What greatly enhanced the obligation was, my not being even personally known to him. Induced by humanity, for which the *Doctor* was as distinguished as for his eminent skill in his profession; and having in his youth been acquainted with some of my relations by my mother's side, who were of his own sect; as well as from the character he had heard of me from my former lively intimate

mate the Goddess of Nonsense, but now Mary Wordley, a *teacher* and a *preacher* among the quakers; he most generously sent me the money by a gentleman who lived in Theobald's-road, by profession an apothecary, but whose name I have forgot.

This debt, as it was attended with such proofs of liberality, I was the most anxious to pay of any I owed. I had given at the time, a bond for the money, and with it a judgment; but the Doctor had too much generosity to think of entering it up. I had formerly borrowed a sum from Mr. Woodward, for which the upholsterer, who occasionally let my house, drew up, by way of security, an assignment of my furniture. But soon after his first illness, that worthy man delivered me up the paper containing the assignment, as a present upon his birthday. Consequently, Doctor Fothergill was the only person who had any claim upon my property in Brewer-street.

It was not long before Solomon's ruffians took possession of the habitation which belonged to my late respected friend. Terrified almost to madness when I received the account, and doubly anxious to pay Doctor Fothergill, whose confidence claimed a preference to any other creditor; and at the same time to clear myself of the outlawry, the very name of which shocked me beyond description; I gave a power to dispose of the
the

the whole of my furniture both in Brewer-street and Chapel-street, in order to exonerate me from those two debts. After this was done, there was some balance arising from the sale, but it was not very considerable; for as it happened to be the dead part of summer when the goods were disposed of, and most of the genteel people out of town, they were sold to manifest disadvantage.

During the first year after the decease of Mr. Woodward, I received at different times from Mr. Cornish, *fifty-nine pounds*, which was all I ever benefited by the kind intentions of my deceased friend; and even part of that was the produce of my own effects. This comparatively small sum I was obliged to be satisfied with, notwithstanding the money at Messrs. Drummond's was immediately called in, as well as all the other monies which were due to him, to the amount of seventeen or eighteen hundred pounds. Nor were the debts of Mr. Woodward paid *immediately*, according to the letter of the will; it was at least a year and a quarter after his decease before they were settled. Mrs. Crawford has likewise been left in quiet possession of Crow-street Theatre, without a shilling being paid of the stipulated two hundred pounds a year; though by a proper mode of procedure, the regular payment of it might have been enforced.

Thus

Thus by the refusal of the executors to comply with their deceased friend's dying request, and the strange conduct of Mr. Willet the attorney, have I been driven to distresses, even greater than those which are felt by a mendicant in the street. And this, notwithstanding I might have been furnished with a comfortable subsistence by the enjoyment of that property I had a right to expect. But I refer you to what I have already said upon the subject.

The first year after Mr. Woodward's decease, I was tolerably easy; supposing that, at the usual time, the executors would settle the affairs. In lieu of which, through the instigations of the attorney, whose views need no elucidating, they commenced a suit, without rhyme or reason, as the saying is, against Mr. Woodward's brother. Among the papers of the deceased, they found a bond and note of his, which, from having been given long ago, had many years interest upon it. It amounted, together, to a sum that would nearly swallow up the legacy left him.

I am well assured, from the knowledge I have of my friend's humane disposition, and great dislike to every species of duplicity, that the bond was never intended to be put in force; and Mr. Cornish so far coincided with me in opinion, that he promised me it should *be given up*; but this was over-ruled

ruled by the person, who foresaw the advantages that would arise from a law-suit. I *apprehend* the reason of the bond's being kept by Mr. Woodward was, to prevent, in case of his brother's death, his wife or heirs from being benefited ; for his brother had married a person whom he much disliked. And so greatly had his marriage offended him, that it was with the utmost difficulty I could prevail upon him ever to see or speak to him.

It certainly could not be meant, as the will was so recently made, that the legacy should be only a nominal one, as it would have been, had so large a sum been deducted out of it. Mr. Woodward was above such duplicity and vain ostentation. And I must add, that I cannot help thinking, though I am not conversant in the law, that as I was the only legatee, and who alone could be injured by it, *my* desire of giving up the bond and note, would have been a sufficient inducement for the executors to consent to it, and a sufficient authority for their doing it. But this mode of settling it, would not have been so advantageous to Mr. Willet. The sweets of a suit of law would have been nipped in the bud ; and he could have found no excuse to prevent his *refunding* ; a term which grates upon the ear of most of the gentlemen of his profession.

I lived a year and a quarter at Walcot-Place, in the lodging that had been provided for me, and a very expensive one it was, exclusive of my man and maid-servant. To support this, I borrowed money upon my plate, and disposed of the few jewels I had left. As I had long secluded myself from the world, the only acquaintance I kept up, was one female intimate, who resided in town, and the family where I lodged.

Thus step by step, with more or less celebrity, according as circumstances vary, do those, who by their own imprudence, the villainy of others, or the wanton attacks of fortune, are driven from the elevated brow of prosperity, descend into the vale of adversity.—Steep and slippery is the road; and seldom, very seldom, are the pristine heights to be recovered. And the uncertainty of when we have reached the bottom, adds to the horror of the descent.

G. A. B.

L E T T E R XCV.

January 29, 17—

MY youngest son now came from France upon his being of age; and my eldest son got leave of absence, in order to
to

to return to England upon the same occasion. When they met, and took into consideration the settlement of some of the debts they were mutually engaged for, an unhappy disagreement arose between them. My son Calcraft insisted that he would not pay one of the contracts, because it was usurious: he would only agree to return the principal with five per cent. interest. It was in vain that Captain Metham argued its being the usual mode of lending money in such cases of exigence, and urged the necessity there was for submitting to the terms, however grating. Their dispute on the subject arose to such a height, that a duel was nearly the consequence; and nothing but my tears and entreaties could have prevented it. What a dreadful situation for a mother, who doated upon her sons, and whose happiness could alone afford her any consolation.

Will you pardon me (yet why do I ask the question? I know you will) if I repeat a few lines from a part I have often performed, and when I performed have most susceptible *felt*? But never do I recollect, that they struck me with greater force than on the present occasion. They are part of the wailings of Constance, when she laments the loss of her beloved son. For the whole of the beautiful and affecting scenes, I refer you to the piece. And not much short of her's would have been my grief, had I been

robbed of either of my sons by this unnatural contest. I then should have said with her *,

- “ Grief fills the room up of my absent child ;
- “ Lies in his bed ; walks up and down with me ;
- “ Puts on his pleasing looks ; repeats his words ;
- “ Remembers me of all his gracious parts ;
- “ Stuffs out his vacant garments with his form :
- “ Then have I reason to be fond of grief.”

In a short time after his arrival in England, my youngest son unfortunately fell into the hands of sharpers, and lost very large sums at play. It therefore became necessary that he should go abroad. He accordingly, thro' the interest of a friend, got a commission in the service of the East-India Company at Bengal. As I was every hour in expectation of having my affairs settled, and being put in possession of what Mr. Woodward had left me, and as Captain Metham supplied me with what money I wanted for the present, I had no occasion to solicit any assistance from him at that time.

Just before he sailed, he called upon me, and appointed the Sunday following to meet his brother at my apartments ; but from some reason I could never ascertain, he did

• King John, Act III. Scene VI.

not fulfil his engagement. Indeed, I have been since informed, that it arose from jealousy of my having a greater affection for his brother than himself, through my refusing him some portraits which I had promised to my eldest son. I am told he has met with the greatest success in his negotiations at Indostan, and is soon expected home; should this happily take place, I form the most sanguine hopes, from that fondness he always expressed for me.

Captain Metham, during his stay here, contracted a friendship with a brother officer, a man dissipated in the extreme. They lent each other their names; and as this gentleman was possessed of an estate, though it was greatly involved, it was not difficult to raise money upon their joint security. But, as is frequently the case in these negotiations, they seldom got more than forty pounds in cash for their notes of an hundred. The consequence of this manner of going on was, that my son soon found himself greatly entangled, and obliged to return to Jamaica.

Just before he went, a beautiful young creature called upon me with a letter from him; which, as my affording the mistress of my son protection, might appear to you and the world, as if I countenanced his illicit connections, and draw on me an additional load of censure, I shall transcribe verbatim.

" My Dear Madam,

" LET my situation plead my excuse for
 " this. It is to introduce to you a young
 " woman, whose greatest fault is an attach-
 " ment to your son. I have no resource left,
 " but to rely upon my father's generosity ;
 " a faint but only hope. But though I
 " cannot count upon his protection, I can
 " upon your's ; who are too good, and have
 " too much sense to be offended when I tell
 " you, *that at this time she is entitled to my*
 " *tenderest regards.*

" My circumstances are such, that I could
 " not even call on you before I go ; but I
 " hope a few years will amply compensate for
 " the misfortunes of this ; and that we may
 " both live, till I have proved in numberless
 " instances, with what truth I am

" Your most affectionate and dutiful son,
 " George Montgomery Metham."

London, Dec. 22, 1778.

My birth-day.

My circumstances at this time were not in the most flourishing state, but in consideration of my son's request, and the young person's situation, I promised to allow her a weekly pittance, as long as I could afford to do so. This, however, it was not in my power to do but for a few weeks.

At the expiration of the time usually limited for executors to settle the affairs entrusted

entrusted to their care, a trust of the most sacred and important nature, I waited on Mr. Woodward's to know what had been done. When, to my inexpressible astonishment, I was informed, that there was no money for me, nor the least room for me to expect any. They added, that I must apply to Mr. Willet, their attorney; as they were determined to be guided wholly by him, and being resolved not to act themselves, *they had given their power up to him.*

Having met with this unexpected rebuff, I prevailed upon a friend of Mr. Woodward's to call on Mr. Bromfield, but he would not hear what he had to say. I wrote repeatedly to him with as little effect, my letters being referred to Mr. Willet. At length driven by distress, I called at the house of the latter, where I was treated with an insolence I never before experienced.

He informed me, that he had proceeded against Mr. Crawford till he had got execution against him. And upon my representing that the warrants to the bonds were in the hands of Mr. Burton of Dublin, he insolently replied, that indeed he would not cross the herring-pond. Upon my asking him when he thought I might expect any advantage, he told me, I had nothing to expect; that the executors had as good a right as myself to the effects, if there were

any; as I should squander it all away, supposing any advantages were to arise to me.

It was in vain for me to remonstrate with a person who could have the effrontery to tell me this. What was to be done I knew not. Mr. Cornish by this time had retired from business into the country; and Mr. Bromfield still persisted in not listening either to personal applications or letters; or, if he did, I received the usual reference to one from whom I had nothing to expect.

Thus were my hopes from this quarter, from which I had the most rational grounds of expectation, according to my usual ill fortune, frustrated; and that, like many of the former, not through any misconduct of my own. This consideration affords me great comfort amidst my distresses, and gives me room to hope, that the application I made in my last letter to the gentlemen of the law, will not prove ineffectual, but procure me from among them some humane and powerful protector.

Finding my distresses through this disappointment become serious, I discharged my man servant; which I did with reluctance, as he was very faithful, and had lived with me a considerable time. I likewise gave up the apartments I occupied at first, and went into an upper room in the same house, as I was unable to pay what was already due.

My

My son Metham had promised to send me money from Jamaica, but I could not expect to receive it for some time. I found myself greatly distressed, as I had borrowed money from Mr. Woodward's brother, with the sure expectation of being able to repay it at the expiration of the year. The faithful girl who attended me would not leave me, and rather chose to share my distress. Besides all these disagreeable circumstances, I had contracted a debt at a shop in the neighbourhood, that supplied me with every necessary except bread and meat. I had given a note for the sum, which was now become due, and for which I was threatened with confinement. This was a double distress to us, as it deprived us of the greatest part of our subsistence, and reduced us to the utmost extremity of want.

I had now parted with every thing that I could raise a shilling upon; and poverty, with all her horrid train of evils, stared me in the face. In this dreadful situation, worn out with calamity, and terrified with the gloomy prospect which presented itself to my view, I endeavoured to persuade myself that suicide could not be a crime. I had no person to look up to. Every body to whom I was united by the ties of blood, were abroad. Sir George Metham had presented me with a temporary relief; but he, as well as all the nobility, were out of town. Not being pos-

ness (as I thought) of a shilling, nor the expectation of getting one; oppressed by debt; without the common necessities of life; an useless member of society; and the poor girl who had kindly involved herself in my distress, being an aggravation of it; I taught myself to believe, that it would be a meritorious action to free myself from being, any longer, the burthen I was to the world and myself. I accordingly formed the resolution to put an end to my existence, by throwing myself into the Thames.

Unhappily in this moment of despair, every spark of that virtuous confidence in heaven, so forcibly recommended in the following lines, was extinguished in my bosom *.

“ Tho’ plung’d in ills, and exercis’d in care,
 “ Yet never let the noble mind despair;
 “ When press’d by dangers, and beset with foes,
 “ The gods their timely succour interpose;
 “ And when our virtue sinks, o’erwhelm’d with
 “ grief,
 “ By unforeseen expedients bring relief.”

Inspired by the black ideas which had got possession of my mind, I one night left the house between nine and ten o’clock. As there was a door which led from the garden into the road, I went out unperceived; for I

* Phillips.

had not resolution to speak to my faithful attendant, whose anxious eye might have discovered the direful purpose of my heart impressed upon my countenance.

Having effected, unobserved, my elopement, I wandered about the road and fields, till the clock was on the point of striking eleven, and then made my way towards Westminster-bridge. I continued to rove about till that hour, as there was then a probability that I should not be interrupted by any passengers from carrying my desperate design into execution. Indeed, I was not without hopes of meeting in St. George's Fields with some Freebooters, who would have prevented the deed of desperation I was about to perpetrate, by taking a life I was weary of. Nor would this have been an improbable expectation, had I met with any of those lawless plunderers, that oftentimes frequent those parts; for their disappointment from finding me penniless, might have excited them to murder me. A consummation I then devoutly wished.

Having reached the Bridge, I descended the steps of the landing-place, with a sad and solemn pace, and sat me down on the lowest stair, impatiently waiting for the tide to cover me. My desperation, though resolute, was not of that violent kind as to urge me to take the fatal plunge. As I sat, I fervently recommended my spirit to that Being

I was going to offend in so unwarrantable a manner, by not bearing patiently the afflictions he was pleased I should suffer. I even dared to harbour the thought, that a divine impulse had given rise to the idea; as if “the Everlasting had not fixed his canon ’gainst self-slaughter!”

The moon beamed faintly through the clouds, and gave just light enough to distinguish any passenger who might cross the bridge; but as I was in mourning, there was not any great probability of my being discerned and interrupted. I had taken off my bonnet and apron, and laid them beside me upon the stairs; and leaning my head upon my hands, remained lost in thought, and almost stupified by sorrow and the reflections which crowded upon my mind.

Here pause a moment, and admire with me the strange vicissitudes of life. Behold your once lively friend, reduced from the enjoyment of ease, affluence, esteem, and renown in her profession, to the most desperate state that human wretchedness will admit of—a prey to penury, grief, contumely, and despair—standing tiptoe on the verge of this world, and impiously daring to rush, *unbidden*, into the presence of her Creator—I shudder at the recollection—Let me draw a veil across it, and proceed.

In

In the pensive posture just described, did I sit for some minutes, watching the gently swelling tide, and blaming its tardy approach. When it pleased "the unseen power (to express myself in the words of Thomson) that rules the illimitable world, that guides its motions, from the brightest star, to the least dust of this sin-tainted mold," to interfere and snatch me from destruction.

I was suddenly roused from my awful reverie, by the voice of a woman at some little distance, addressing her child; as appeared from what followed, for they were neither of them visible. In a soft plaintive tone she said, "How, my dear, can you cry to me for bread, when you know I have not even a morsel to carry your dying father?" She then exclaimed, in all the bitterness of woe, "My God! my God! what wretchedness can compare to mine! *But thy almighty will be done.*"

The concluding words of the woman's pathetic exclamation communicated instantaneously, like the electric spark, to my desponding heart. I felt the full force of the divine admonition; and struck with horror at the crime I had intentionally committed, I burst into tears; repeating in a sincere ejaculation, the pious sentence she had uttered, "*thy almighty will be done!*"

As I put my hand into my pocket, to take out my handkerchief in order to dry my
tears,

tears, I felt some halfpence there which I did not know I was possessed of. And now my native humanity, which had been depressed, as well as every other good propensity, by despair, found means to resume its power in my mind. Impelled by its pleasing influence, I hastily ran up the steps, and having discovered my hitherto invisible monitress, gave them to her. I received in return a thousand blessings; to which I rather thought she had a right from me, for having been the means of obstructing my dire intents.

I now returned to the place where the impious scene was to have been acted, and humbly adored that Being, who had by such an eventual circumstance counteracted it; and for the first and last time in my life, felt a sensation of happiness from finding there were persons in the world more wretched than myself. I dare say my much respected * Thomson's description of the miseries of human life, will here occur to your recollection, as they do to mine on a review of the incident.

“ Ah little do the gay, licentious, proud,
 “ Whom pleasure, power, and affluence surround;
 “ They who their thoughtless hours in giddy mirth,
 “ And wanton, often cruel, riot waste;

* Thomson's Winter, Line 322.

“ Ah

“ Ah little think they, while they dance along,
“ How many feel, this very moment, death
“ And all the sad variety of pain :
“ How many sink in the devouring flood,
“ Or more devouring flame : how many bleed
“ By shameful variance betwixt man and man :
“ How many pine in want, and dungeon glooms ;
“ Shut from the common air, and common use
“ Of their own limbs : how many drink the cup
“ Of baleful grief, or eat the bitter bread of mi-
“ fery.”——

I am apprehensive I shall tire you with this melancholy account of the extreme of despair, into which your poor fallen friend was thus plunged. And yet I flatter myself, that an event so interesting to me, will not be considered as uninteresting to you. I will, however, think about bringing it to a conclusion, and with it conclude this proportionably long letter.

Whilst I compared my own situation with that of the poor woman, whose starving child and dying husband occasioned her to vent so pungently her grief, I received great satisfaction from considering, that all those who were dear to me, as well from affection as the ties of blood, were in prosperous circumstances. I had no one to care for, but the poor girl whose affection kept her with me, and whom I regarded as my child. Having therefore adored the great Source of Good,
for

for my recent deliverance from the fatal effects of my despondency, I prayed that he would pardon the atrocious attempt; and concluded my petition, with begging that he would grant me power to assist her, and make her future days more comfortable.

Having done this, I remounted the steps, and found my mind inexpressibly relieved. The gloom which had so lately overwhelmed it, was in an instant cleared away, and a tranquillity I had long been a stranger to, succeeded it. Such a sudden transition from the blackest despair to peace and hope, I was well assured could only have been effected by some invisible agent; for I never felt such a ray of comfort diffuse itself through my heart, since those blessed days of innocence I spent in my much-regretted convent. "It came o'er my mind," (as the immortal bard * describes the power of music) "like the sweet South, that breathes upon a bank of violets, stealing and giving odour."

G. A. B.

* Twelfth Night, Act I. Scene I.

L E T-

L E T T E R X C V I.

February 8, 17—

HAVING offered up my adorations to Heaven, with a fervour I had scarcely ever experienced before, I returned home. When I got in, I found my poor Sally crying as if her heart would break, lest some misfortune had happened to me. The faithful girl was, however, soon restored to quiet, by observing the gloom, which had lately been so apparent in my looks dispelled, and tranquillity seemingly restored to my distracted bosom. She informed me, that during my absence, her sister had called upon her, and had lent her two shillings. With this she had been out, and bought something she thought I should like for supper, and some tea and sugar for the morning.

When supper was got ready, we sat down together to our repast, with thankful hearts; for she was become more a humble friend than a servant; and I cannot remember, even in the most elevated situation I was ever in, and when my table was spread with dainties, that I made a more pleasing meal. The goodness of the poor girl's heart was so evident, in her waiting patiently for my return, to partake of what she had provided, notwithstanding she had been long fasting; and gave me such an incontrovertible proof
of

of her affection, that it greatly added to my regard for her; and I then resolved, if I was ever blest with the power, amply to return it.

So interested and lukewarm is the service of domestics, in general, to their masters and mistresses, that when their attendance appears to be tinged with regard as well as duty, they claim every indulgence their station will admit of, and become invaluable. To shew my approbation of the considerate girl's attention, I gave her leave to pass the following day with her sister, who had called to invite her; and I was not displeased at her having such an opportunity of regaling herself, as no part of the supply she had furnished me with remained but the tea and sugar.

As I sat ruminating, after she was gone, upon my late intended rashness, I heard a gentle tap at the door. Since I had removed to the Attic story, I had, through a false pride, avoided seeing any of those who had known me in a better situation; my surprize therefore was very great, at beholding Madam Krudnar enter; and more particularly so, as a difference subsisted at that time between a relation of her's and myself. This lady is the widow of a Polish baron, a most agreeable generous woman, and possessed of the most liberal sentiments.

She had accidentally heard of my distress, and taken the first opportunity to come and relieve me. She gently chid me for conceal-
ing

ing my situation from my acquaintance, as my being reduced to my present extremity, did not proceed from my own misconduct, but was occasioned in a great measure by the barbarity of the lawyer, who had wantonly expended my property in unnecessary suits of law. She observed, upon my relating to her my situation, that the debts I had contracted, were in consequence of the supposition, that I should be possessed of an income more than adequate to my expences.

As it was Sunday when Madam Krudnar called upon me, and my maid was gone out, it was impracticable for me to get any other refreshment for her, than the tea which I fortunately had by me; and with this I entertained my benevolent patroness.

Being much indisposed from the vexation and anxiety I had undergone, I now lay longer in bed than I usually had done. The house was remarkably quiet, there being no other lodgers in it. Mr. Willets, the person to whom it belonged, was always in the garden when at home; and his spouse was generally abroad, in a great measure, I believe to be out of the way, that she might avoid seeing misery, which she had neither the power nor the inclination to relieve.

This was the state of the house where I lodged. When, two or three days after, the fair visitant, I have given you an account of, had honoured me with her company, I heard,
in

in the morning, repeated knockings at the door. Upon enquiring into the cause of such unusual noise, I found that it proceeded from a number of persons who were sent to assist me; but having carefully secreted myself, as I have already informed you, from the world, since adversity had been my portion, I could by no means account for these benefactions.

Among others, Mr. Harris did me the honour to call upon me. He kindly enquired, why I had not acquainted the managers of Covent-Garden with my distress; and presenting me with five guineas, desired I would place that trifle to the account; which I took as a genteel way of making me a present of it. I must inform you, that I am indebted to the managers of Covent-Garden Theatre in thirty, or five and thirty pounds, and to Mr. Harris twenty.

The same day I received a visit from a female, for whom I have a very great regard. This was Mrs. Whitfield, the daughter of Nurse Carter, whom I have already mentioned as my dresser for some years. She came with a deputation from Mr. Hull and Mr. Mattocks, offering their joint endeavours to raise a sum, in order to extricate me from the debts which oppressed me. I need not say, that I readily accepted their generous assistance, and esteemed myself much flattered by such a mark of kindness from the community to which I had formerly belonged.

Upon

Upon my accepting the foregoing offer, Mrs. Whitfield made me one from herself, which, at the same time that it shewed her humane disposition, gave proofs of the greatest discretion and judgment. She proposed, if I would grant my consent, that she would endeavour to raise a sum among her own acquaintance and friends, and from it pay me a guinea a week. This proposal, you may be assured, I also gladly accepted, as it would be a prevention not only of want, but of what is infinitely more to be dreaded, *debt*; which, in my opinion, is the earthly Tartarus.

When a person whose principles are good, unhappily falls into this situation, adieu to all peace and comfort. The reflection embitters every meal, and drives from the eye-lids refreshing sleep. It corrodes and cankers every chearful idea, and like a stern Cerberus, guards each avenue to the heart, so that pleasure dares not approach.—Happy! thrice happy! are those, who are blest with an independent competence, and can confine their wants within the bounds of that competence, be it what it may. To such alone the bread of life is palatable and nourishing. Sweet is the morsel that is acquired by an honest industry, the produce of which is permanent, or that flows from a source which will not fail. A subsistence that is precarious, or procured by an uncertain prospect

prospect of payment, carries neither wine nor oil with it.—Let me therefore again repeat, that the person who is deeply involved in debt, experiences on earth all the tortures the poets describe to be the lot of the wretched inhabitants of Tartarus.

I was naturally led to enquire, how the knowledge of my present distressed situation had found its way into the world; when I was informed, that an advertisement had appeared in the public papers, the day before, to the following purport: “That the *female Timon* was in want of the necessaries of life; and those who had formerly partaken of her prosperity, ought to blush at suffering her to be in such a situation.” My address was subjoined, which brought the benefactions so readily to me.

The performers could not be induced by this intelligence to make me the kind proposal they did, as none of them ever lay under any obligation to me, except Sparks; and he had for some years been sleeping with his fathers. But though many, incited by the advertisement, pitied my distressed situation, yet among all the persons I had formerly obliged, there was but *one* who felt the rebuke. So very scarce an article, as I have already observed, is gratitude.

I soon had another visit from my fair friend Madam Krudnar, who was quite charmed to hear that her manœuvre had
proved

proved so successful; for to her I now found I was indebted for the discovery of my distress. She congratulated me upon it; but not without reproaching me once more with pride, for keeping my poverty secret. In a short time, I received a sum from the Theatre, which enabled me to pay most of the debts I had been obliged by hard necessity to contract. And for some time the guinea per week, which Mrs. Whitfield raised for me, continued; indeed, much longer than I had reason to expect.

I was now favoured with a visit from the justly celebrated Mrs. Abington, who advised me to take a benefit, and kindly offered her talents.—She at the same time lent me her name to a draft for eleven pounds; for which I hold myself as much indebted to her, as if she had made me a present of the money. The anxiety I experienced till the bill was paid, was inexpressible; but I was enabled to pay it when due, by the kind assistance of a gentleman who formerly belonged to the Nonsense-Club I have given an account of. Mr. King and Mr. Smith likewise kindly offered to play for me; but as the season was far advanced, it was thought advisable to postpone it till the next.

At this period I recollected, that I never had received any consideration for the fixtures in Brewer-street house. I therefore applied to Pollard the upholsterer, who had disposed

disposed of them; and was informed by him, that he had paid the produce of them into the hands of Mr. Woodward's executors. But upon my examining Mr. Cornish's account, I found that no such money had been received from him. Upon which I desired Mr. Willets, the person at whose house I lodged, to call on him; when he still insisted upon the truth of his first assertion, and stood in it, that he did not owe me a shilling. Incensed to a degree, at the supposition of my being so unprincipled as to make a demand where I had not a legal claim, I commenced a process against Pollard; and though I had the satisfaction to gain my cause, I would not undergo what I suffered from employing such means to recover the money, for ten times the sum.

Isaac Bickerstaff, in one of his Lucubrations, says, that in most villages there is a Mrs. Bluemantle; a tattling gossip, who makes it her business to collect all the news of the place, and when she dispenses it abroad, takes care to decorate it with not a few additions and emendations, which owe their being to her own prolific brain. During my residence at Walcot-place, I experienced, to my sorrow, that a Mrs. Bluemantle resided in that neighbourhood.

A person who is married to a man of a genteel profession in London, and has pitched upon that spot for her country residence,

dence, did me the honour to notice me whilst there. She amused herself with repeating stories of my extravagance, at the time that I actually wanted the necessaries of life, and was confined to my bed by a severe indisposition occasioned by fretting. It is much to be lamented, that these pests of society are not liable to some punishment: for though an action of damages might not lie against them, they often do as much real injury to such as are unhappy enough to become the subject of their strictures, as those who are more unguarded in their mode of expression.

I severely experienced the truth of this; as a gentleman informed me some time after, that he certainly should have assisted me in my distress, had he not accidentally fallen in with this kind and intelligent neighbour of mine, who assured him there was no truth in the report of my being distressed, as I had every day *my bottle and my bird*.

I insert this circumstance, in hopes, after it has undergone your inspection, of its falling into the hands of my calumniator's daughter. As that young lady probably has books from a circulating library, and these letters will undoubtedly be honoured with a place in most of their catalogues, there is a chance of her reading them. If she does, I should take it as a favour if she would inform the worthy Mrs. Bluemantle (who is generally too busily employed about other

people's affairs; to have leisure to read herself) that I have heard of her great goodness, but hold her calumny in the most sovereign contempt. I have charity enough to hope that Miss, who seems to have no very great opinion of her Mamma, will avoid an imitation of so contemptible a character, and take care not to deserve the denomination I have, with the greatest propriety, bestowed upon her mother.

Had I the power of naming the punishment which should be inflicted for such a breach of the laws of truth and humanity, I would propose depriving them of the member by which they propagate their inhuman falsehoods. Though this infliction might appear a severe one, it certainly is not more than adequate to the crime. In my estimation, it is of the highest magnitude. To repeat stories to the disadvantage of others, even if they are true, is wrong; but to *invent* falsehoods wantonly to injure them, certainly requires exemplary punishment.

But were the lovers of scandal to be deprived of their tongues, they would make use of their hands to indulge their beloved propensity. When they could no longer speak, they would write their censures; and were they deprived of the power of expressing their malignity by these methods, they, like Lavinia, would write with stumps upon the sand, rather than let their neighbours live without calumny. Finely

Finely expressive of my ideas on this head, is the complaint of the poor injured Arethusa in * Philaster; which, with the alteration of the word *maiden* into *person*, to make it more extensively applicable, I will beg leave to insert for your perusal.

- " Where may a *person* live securely free,
 " Keeping their honour safe? Not with the living;
 " They feed upon opinions, errors, dreams,
 " And make them truths; they draw a nourishment
 " Out of defamings; grow upon disgraces;
 " And when they see a virtue fortified
 " Strongly above the battery of their tongues,
 " Oh, how they cast to sink it; and defeated,
 " (Soul-sick with poison) strike the monuments
 " Where noble names lie sleeping, till they sweat,
 " And the cold marble melts."

You may probably think me too warm in my censures of defamation, falsehood, and duplicity, those human failings that are so discordant to the natural bent of my own mind.—But, as I have before told you (and I believe more than once) that every part of my conduct is generally in the extreme, so neither can I feel or express my approbation or disapprobation in lukewarm terms.—There is a fervour in my manner I cannot

* Philaster, Act III. Scene the last.

controul ; and I always speak or write of an action, according to the degree of pleasure or disgust I receive from it.

G. A. B.

LETTER XCVII.

Feb. 16, 17—

AS Mr. Willets, my landlord, had let the greatest part of the house to a large family, I found it very inconvenient to remain any longer at Walcot-Place ; I therefore came to town, and fixed my residence in the house where I at present lodge.

I presumed to acquaint his Grace of Montague with my distress, who immediately honoured me with a temporary relief ; and I have upon several occasions, been favoured with marks of his Grace's munificence : but these would not enable me to subsist without contracting debts.

I had applied to some persons who were connected with Sir George Metham, but without success. I now made application to himself, and informed him of the distressed situation I was in. I had, however, in return, only a reproachful letter, pointing out the impropriety of requesting pecuniary favours. As I never knew a pleasure equal to assisting those

those in distress, when I had it in my power, I thought that others had the same feelings. But alas! how few are blest with the benevolent minds of a Montague or a Spencer*, with whose bounty I am proud of having been frequently honoured.

As I had received such incontestible proofs of regard from my contemporaries, I thought I might succeed in a benefit. Indeed, the idea was first suggested to me by Lady Lumm. I accordingly applied to Mr. Harris, who, with a generosity to which I hold myself much obliged, not only granted me the house, free from the incidental expenses, but made use of his interest with the performers; who, one and all, cheerfully lent me their talents, to which I acknowledge myself ever indebted.

It was advised by some persons who professed a regard for me, that I should appear myself. Though an absence of six or seven years from the theatre, agitated my mind with all the apprehensions of a new performer; yet when my name was once advertised, it was not in my power to recede. And so extremely apprehensive was I, the night of the performance, that I would readily have given up all the advantages I expected to arise from it, to have been excused performing, notwithstanding they were infinitely greater than my most sanguine hopes could

* The late Earl.

represent them to be. This in a great measure was owing to Mrs. Yates's appearance after a long indisposition.

I was so much intimidated when I was about to make my *entrée*, that I believe I should not have had courage to have gone upon the stage, had not Miss Catley, in a manner, forced me on. To this lady I am much indebted, for the lively satisfaction she expressed at seeing a theatre crowded by the first and most distinguished of the nobility in the month of June. Had the house been thus filled for her own benefit, she could not have betrayed more genuine marks of pleasure. They afforded a convincing proof of the goodness of her heart. I had quitted the theatre before her return from Ireland, and consequently was unknown to her.

The state of Mrs. Yates's health was so doubtful, that I was apprehensive she would not have been able to perform. But the goodness she possesses made her run every risque, to assist a sister of the profession in distress. She appeared, amidst the plaudits of a splendid audience, in her justly admired character of Jane Shore. To this play was added "Comus," in which every performer endeavoured to excel. And they fully convinced the house, that they received a sensible pleasure from the opportunity they had, of paying a compliment of their talents upon so humane an occasion.

As

As to my own exhibition, I believe it was very mediocre. And I hope I shall gain credit when I assert, as I do, that, to this hour, I do not know how I got through my part; which was, as usual, that of Alicia. Fear had taken such full possession of me, that it prevented me from returning my thanks to the audience, and particularly to my patronesses, for the distinguished honour they had done me, in a short address I had prepared for the purpose.

The weather was uncommonly warm, which made it the more extraordinary, to have a theatre crowded by beauties of the first distinction. Her Grace^d of Bolton, in the honour of whose patronage I have always exulted, regardless of the weather, filled her boxes, as if it had been the depth of winter. I was so fortunate as to have my benefit over, the eve of the unhappy riots.

The young woman who had been recommended by my eldest son to me for assistance, had persuaded me to join with her in a note of hand at six months date, in order to discharge a debt she had contracted. This note had been some time due, but I prevailed upon the holder to keep it till my benefit, when it was paid; as was likewise every shilling of the emoluments I received from it. Though I could ill spare the money to pay this note, in my present situation, yet being in daily expectation of hearing from my son, or at least

of being reimbursed by the young woman herself, when she received the allowance he had appointed her before he went, I kept up my spirits.

And this I did the more readily, as his excellency Comte Haflang had promised to assist me till my affairs were settled, by allowing me a small sum monthly. The promised stipend was regularly paid me, for a short time after I removed into Duke-street; but his lordship being attacked by a very severe illness, I received a letter from him informing me, that the expences incidental to his indisposition, put it out of his power to perform his promise at that time, but on a future day I should receive it. What made this disappointment the greater was, my being laid up with a fit of the rheumatism, which had confined me to my bed for some weeks, and rendered me unable to get up but to have the bed made.

Whilst I laid in this situation, a person whom I had known formerly in a genteel line of business, but had not seen for years, called upon me. She came, *as she said*, to request I would give my opinion upon the abilities of a young gentlewoman, whom she imagined had talents for the stage, and wished to appear in Juliet. I told her it was impossible, in the situation she then saw me, to comply with her request; but as soon as I was able to leave my room, I would send her
word,

word, if she would favour me with her address.

Having received this answer, she withdrew, desiring me to drink Madeira. Upon my frankly replying, that Madeira was a wine I could by no means afford, she begged I would permit her to send me a few bottles, as the lady she wished to introduce to me had some particularly good. I thanked her. She took her leave; and I thought no more of my visitant or her wine, till I was informed that a boy had brought some Madeira from Mrs. S——, with her compliments. He told the maid he would call for the basket the next day. Hearing this, I bid her inform me when the boy came, that I might send a card of thanks, and reward him for his trouble.

Accordingly, the next evening I was told he was below. But behold, whilst I was giving the girl the gratification I intended for the boy, two fellows rushed into the room, and acquainted me they had an action for a very considerable sum against me, adding, that I must immediately get up and go with them. I requested to know the name of the creditor that had taken such a step. They informed me, and added, that the debt was for linen drapery. I assured them that I knew no such person, nor had I for years bought any article of that kind, but from Mr. Evans of Mary-le-bone-street. It was in

vain that I remonstrated; the debt, they said, was sworn to; and they had even the audacity to tell me, that if I had bail ready, they had particular orders not to take it.

I represented my condition, but they were inflexible. I was therefore obliged to make a virtue of necessity, and yield to their authority. I then requested they would permit me to rise, without their being present. To this they at length complied, but not without enjoining me to be expeditious, as they were in haste, and I must be so too. No words can describe my feelings upon this occasion. To be exposed to such brutality, without having furnished any legal pretence for it, was shocking beyond conception. My poor faithful girl was so terrified, that she greatly added to my distress; for though accustomed to misfortune, nothing of a similar kind to this had she as yet been witness to.

The fellows ridiculed her feelings; and having planted themselves at each door, during the time I was getting up, they there gave way to their mirth. In their conversation, they mentioned the name of the female that had visited me the preceding day. In a moment the duplicity of the woman struck me with all its force. The intent of her visit was now disclosed. The pretended Juliet, the present of the Madeira, and the calling again for the basket, were all now plainly discoverable to be only preparatory steps to
the

the oppressive scene that was acting. Confounded at such treachery, I could scarcely believe my senses; especially as she was a Scotch woman, a country whose natives are in general blessed with sincerity as well as honesty. Nor was it possible to account for such an act of barbarity towards a person, who had formerly shewn her many civilities; towards one who never intentionally injured another, even in thought; and whose situation would claim compassion from any being, possessed of a spark of humanity.

As soon as I could get myself ready, I entered the coach with my honourable attendants, who escorted me to Armstrong's in Cary-street. The confidence of its being a false debt supported me. But when I heard the name of the solicitor who had taken out the writ, I guessed at the design of it. Being indebted in a very large sum to Mr. Stacie at the Bedford Arms, which I was security for my son, Captain Metham, before he went to Jamaica, I had demanded of this attorney a bond, sent to his late father, in order to make an assignment of it to Mr. Stacie.

I therefore immediately sent to Mr. Stacie, who soon came with his attorney, and having engaged to the officer for my appearance, I returned home without the attendance of my gentlemen ushers. My little girl felt inexpressible satisfaction at seeing me; and I had

the pleasure to find, that the cause of my absence had not been suspected by any person in the house. The mistress of it was confined to her bed; her husband was in Italy; and I had been as much alarmed lest she should be frightened at so critical a time, as I was at the disagreeable predicament in which I had stood.

As the writ was soon returnable, and it was not in my power to procure bail sufficient for so large a sum, I had no resource but to give my name into the office of the court of King's Bench: for not being willing to plead the privilege I was entitled to from Comte Haslang, to a debt of *any kind*, much less to one I did *not owe*, I determined to stand trial. I was the more induced to do this, as the affair began to unravel itself; by which I found, that the unhappy woman my youngest son had formerly connected himself with, in conjunction with another person, had prevailed upon an ignorant Irishman, who was never worth ten pounds in his life, to swear that I was indebted to him a sum, that he and all his ancestors, from their situation, could never have been possessed of.

This unwarrantable manœuvre I apprehend, was intended to *intimidate* me, so as to get from me a receipt for the bond; for my situation, at that juncture, made it extremely hazardous for me even to change my apartment. The dread of fatal consequences,
they

they imagined would induce me to purchase my liberty at any price. I must here inform you, that the bond in question was given by the relation I have already mentioned, who I brought up from a child, for money borrowed of Mr. Woodward, upon his going to the East-Indies.

If you will refer to one of my former letters, I forget which, you will see, that upon my nephew's going abroad, through the interest procured him by Mr. Hoole, Mr. Woodward advanced him eighty odd pounds for the completion of his equipment. A bond was given for that sum by the young gentleman, but, at Mr. Woodward's express desire, was made out in my name; and he would never accept of it, as I have reason to believe, lest it should fall into any other person's hands but my own, who he was sure would not sue for it. This could be the only reason for his refusal, as he so strenuously insisted upon my keeping it.

As Mr. Stacie, upon many occasions, had been very obliging to the young men of my family, as well as to myself, I thought the assignment of this bond to him as a counter security towards the payment of Captain Metham's debt, was the only means I had, at the time, to prove to him, that though I was deprived of the ability to do him justice, I did not want inclination; the bond was accordingly sent to this attorney's father, who
was

was one of Mr. Woodward's solicitors, to be assigned over to Mr. Stacie. But that not having been done, I wrote to the son, to require it should be immediately delivered up, and in so peremptory a manner, that I have great reason to believe this arrest was fabricated, in order to terrify me to give a receipt for the bond. There does not appear to be any other inducement for the cruel treatment I received.

Do you ever recollect reading a scene of greater cruelty in a civilized country, than that I have just recited? That a person who had, as * Orlando says, "looked on better days; had sat at good men's feasts; had from her eyelids often wiped a tear; and knew what 'twas to pity and be pitied;" should be dragged out of her bed, whilst labouring under a painful indisposition, and hurried, in an ignominious manner, to a place of confinement, at the hazard of her life, and this without any just pretence; is an incident that almost exceeds belief, and disgraces the country where the act was committed.

The many instances I have given you in the course of my story, of the villainy of mankind, will, I fear, degrade human nature in your estimation.—But Heaven forbid, that my hard lot should be the lot of *many* of my sex!—It is true, I have expe-

* As you like it, Act II. Scene VIII.

rienced

rienced the most unkind, ungrateful, and villainous treatment, from some of both sexes; nor have I yet finished the tale of them: but I will charitably hope that my case is a singular one; and that people in general pass through life, without meeting with so many proofs of the degeneracy of their fellow-creatures as I have done.

G. A. B.

L E T T E R XCVIII.

Feb. 22, 17—

AT the conclusion of the season, I made application to Mr. Younger, acting manager of Drury-lane, to request that the proprietors would grant me a number of tickets; as I could by no means expect the same indulgence either from patentees or performers, I had experienced the year before at Covent-Garden. They were immediately granted; and the late Earl Spencer requesting his lady to honour me with her patronage, in addition to my former patronesses, I met with the success I hoped for.

My not hearing from Captain Metham grieved me much. But this did not arise from the distresses I encountered; these were but trifling considerations, when put in competition with a mother's apprehensions for a much-loved son, destined to so dreadful a climate. I never doubted for a moment,
his

his assisting me when he had the power, as he possessed a soul of honour above breaking a promise to a stranger, much more to a parent of whom he was so fond.

When I made an application to Sir George Metham, as I lately mentioned, for a temporary relief, to which he answered, that he could not comply with my request; he at the same time informed me, that my son, by a fortunate event, had made eight thousand pounds, and certainly would not let me want. This information gave me more pleasure, from the prospect it presented of his return, than from any pecuniary views; for my apprehensions daily increased, through my not hearing from him.

About this time the female he had introduced to my knowledge, came to inform me, that she had received a letter from him, wherein he desired his duty to me, and promised to write to me very shortly. She added, that he had sent an order for her annual allowance, which she begged I would go and receive at Ross and Gray's, and, out of it, repay myself what was due to me. She then told me she would call upon me the next day, and take the overplus; and, to conclude all, she requested me to lend her a guinea.

The pleasure I enjoyed from hearing of my boy's health, joined to the seeming honest principle in the young woman, would have

extracted any money my purse had contained; I therefore readily gave her what she required. As soon as she was gone, I set off for the agent's; when to my very great mortification as well as surprise, I was informed she had received her money that very morning, and she must have had it in her pocket at the time she called upon me. I found my resentment rise when I heard this; but it exceeded all bounds, upon my being informed by Mr. Price, the person who transacted Captain Metham's business, that she had received my letters from him at the time her own were delivered to her, and had secreted them.

The cruelty of such a transaction, when she must be sensible of the very great anxiety I suffered upon his account, was infinitely more unpardonable than the fraud itself. Could I have found her at the time, I should certainly have put the note I paid for her in force; and that more upon account of her barbarity, than even the imposition which had made her dupe.

I was going to break once more into complaints, at the ill usage I am continually receiving from one person or another; but I have tired myself with the subject, and I fear I have done the same by you. I shall therefore only say, I have often wondered at myself, that after the many instances I have met with of ingratitude and art, I am still liable

to

to the same impositions; that I am so easy a prey to those who are capable of duplicity, and endeavour to excite my humanity by plausible pretexts. But I apprehend, we always judge of others by our own sensations. I am sure I always do. I do detest duplicity, that were I unhappy enough to be guilty of the worst of crimes, I would frankly acknowledge them, and not condescend by subterfuge or falsehood to disguise my guilt.

At my mother's death I had taken a female, whom she had bred up, and was particularly fond of, and sent her to France, under the protection of the Mademoiselles Grefriers, in order to learn the art of making mantuas, robes, trimmings, and all the necessary appendages to dress. I was to pay for her board three years; by the expiration of which time it was supposed, she would be sufficiently skilled in the business to merit some salary besides her board and lodging. She had voluntarily given ten pounds a year to an indigent mother to help to support her: and the late Lord Hampden allowed this little income, not only on account of the name, but because she must have possessed the estate annexed to the name, had she fortunately been of the masculine gender.

From the time of my removal to Walcot-Place, I was so turmoiled by illness, law, hope, fear, and distress, that I had neither written to her, nor heard from her. And the

the term I had agreed to pay for, being expired before my arrival, I naturally expected she was settled at Boulogne, as assistant to the persons I had placed her with.

One day, upon my coming home, I was told, that a tall lady, in deep mourning, had called and enquired for Mrs. Bellamy; and that with such a positive certainty of her living at No. 10, Duke-street, that she would hardly be denied. As I still retained the name of West, the person who went to the door strenuously insisted, that there was no one of that name who lived there; and as it happened to be a domestic of a lodger in the house, who was totally a stranger to me, he was offended at the enquirer's obstinacy. My maid-servant, as well as the gentlewoman of the house being out, she could get no satisfaction, and therefore left word that she would call again.

The reason I did not re-assume my own name after my benefit, was, for fear lest any letters from my two sons, who always directed to me by *that* name, should miscarry. Besides this, all the trades people in the neighbourhood I dealt with, make out their bills and receipts in that name to this day: and as those few intimates I had, knew me by no other, but for one benefit night, it occurred to me, that the person who called could be no other than Miss Hampden; I there-

therefore desired that I might see her when she called again.

As she had been assured of my residing here, by a person who had frequently seen me at the window, and in a dishabille, which convinced them I lodged where I did, she returned in the afternoon. I was happy to see her. But, upon enquiring into her situation, I found she had made no proficiency in the business to which I had apprenticed her. She acquainted me, that she had very fortunately been recommended as governess to a daughter of Lady James, as she spoke French fluently, and was thought qualified for such an employment.

During her residence in this family, her mother had gone to seek a better world; upon which occasion, her patroness, who is one of the best of women, had presented her with mourning. The time for which she engaged being expired, and Sir William thinking his daughter of age to sit always at his own table, wished to save the expence of a domestic in her line, who would now be useless; they had accordingly discharged her, to her great regret. Her ladyship, however, had promised her the continuance of her protection, and would honour her with a recommendation, whenever she could get employment; but this, she said, she had not much hopes of, as she only knew how to make trim-

trimmings, to sing "*Haut de Villes*," and take the promenade.

I could not help smiling at this recapitulation of my charge's talents, and congratulated her upon such brilliant acquisitions, after seven years application to business. In my turn, I now informed her of my unhappy situation, which put it out of my power to assist her, agreeable to my inclination; but if she would share my morsel, I told her it was much at her service; and if she would sleep with my maid she might. The latter offer she declined, thinking, perhaps, that reposing with a more delicate girl than herself, would contaminate the blood of the Hampdens.

Lady James soon put the promises she had made her into execution. She so warmly interested herself in her favour, and was so earnest in her solicitations with Lord Hampden, that she prevailed upon his lordship to advance her a sum of money; to which her ladyship so liberally contributed, that she was provided with every thing proper to undertake a voyage to the East-Indies. Thither she went, and I hear she is happily married, and settled at Madras.

As soon as I was released from my late disagreeable capture, I went to pay a visit to Mrs. A——y, who was lately come to England, and resided in the country. Her reason for visiting this kingdom was as follows:

A noble

A noble peer, when upon his travels, made her some compliments, and paid great attention to her during his stay in France; which she, like other foolish women, took *tout de bon*. As that lady was now a young widow, and possessed of a large fortune by her uncle's death, she vainly imagined, that a trip to our dear little island, would be the means of adding an earl's coronet to her own resplendent escutcheon. She accordingly came over.

But upon her arrival, she did not find that his lordship meant his *fluerets* in the same sense they were understood by the lady. Being thus disappointed of obtaining her elevated expectations, she fell from the pompous idea, and exactly verified what I have read in some celebrated French author:

“ The heart of a woman is so susceptible
 “ of tenderness, that she must fall in love.
 “ The preference is generally given by them
 “ to a red coat and cockade, perhaps to the
 “ tinselled hero or buffoon. The serious
 “ fix their trembling hearts on the four-cor-
 “ nered cap or band. But if all these fail,
 “ they will prefer the *Hangman*, rather than
 “ not admire a *public* character.”

After I returned from my visit, I received a letter from this lady, with one enclosed, which she requested I would send, agreeable to the directions, by the chairman I usually employed, that she might be sure it was delivered

livered safe; but she ordered, that the bearer was by no means to wait for an answer. She had informed me, that, since her arrival, she had been at the new opera; when she observed that Mr. — of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, looked remarkably pensive; to which she added, “poor fellow! I wish I “knew how to *assist him!*”

From this conversation, I had every right to believe that the letter committed to my care, was dictated solely by *humanity*. I therefore sent the man with it, who, as it happened to be Sunday, had great difficulty to find the gentleman’s lodgings. Two days after, an express came to town; but not finding an answer at the place where she had ordered it to be left, a little distance from town, the servant soon after brought me a letter, which seemed to be dictated by a Bedlamite. In consequence of this pretty manoeuvre, the lady and I had a breach. She returned to France; and, as I hear, has thrown a large fortune and all her beauty into a cloister, where she purposes to end her days.

I forgot to mention, that during the short time I was at the officer’s house in Cary-street, I met there a person whose face I thought I had seen before; and as she showed me some civility, I supposed, by the ease which appeared in her countenance, that she belonged to the house, her dress being rather frippery genteel.

Whilst

Whilst the bail bond was filling up, she informed me that her name was Douglas; that she was of a good family, but from some indiscretions, had involved herself in a debt of thirty pounds, which occasioned her confinement, and which she had in vain endeavoured to raise. You know humanity is so predominant a propensity in my mind, that it may even be termed a foible; you will not wonder, therefore, that I felt an inclination to assist her; but going out of town for a few days upon a visit to Mrs. A——y, as I have just mentioned, it was totally out of my power to pay any attention to her.

Upon my return I found a letter from her. I sent an answer to it, and therein advised her to write to a noble duke, who is possessed of humanity in the highest degree. She did so, but received no answer. She was soon after liberated by what was then termed a fire ticket, which was sent by an unknown hand. As soon as she found herself restored to freedom, she came to me; and as I always suppose persons to be what they seem, and there appeared to be so much candour in her manner of telling her story, I took her to be with me, and the strongest intimacy was formed between us.

Methinks I hear you say, inspired by a presentiment, from a few words I have let drop, of what is likely to be the consequence of this hasty attachment, "Will nothing make
" you

“you wife?”—“Will not the many instances of ingratitude and duplicity you have already experienced, guard you against a repetition of them?”—“How many more instances have you to tell me of? For you lately said the number was not complete.”—Have a little patience; and as I now draw a conclusion of my long sad story, the latter part of your questions will soon be answered. With regard to your first quere, “Will nothing make you wife?” I can only say, I fear not; if the wisdom you mean is to be purchased with the annihilation of that humane susceptibility which has ever been my pride and my delight.

G. A. B.

 LETTER XCIX.

March 1, 17—

IN some short time, there appeared a paragraph in the public papers, which mentioned, that the names of all those who had surrendered themselves, or had been set down in the books of the King's-Bench, would be published in a pamphlet. Alarmed at having my name enrolled with many, who had caused theirs to be set down, and provided themselves with fire-tickets, for fraudulent purposes, I wrote a letter to Mr. Woodfall, to prevent it, if possible. I therein acquainted him with the real fact. I fully explained the

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circum-

circumstances of the arrest, and requested that my name might not be inserted, as the next term would conclude the affair; an affair which had been productive of so much vexation to me. But to my very great mortification, when the black list came out, I found Mrs. D——s and myself not in the most pleasing company,

The people of the house where I reside, had till now, entertained no suspicion of what had happened; but when they saw my name published they were not a little alarmed. They apprehended that I should avail myself of being in the situation of a prisoner, which every person in the list pretended they had a right to. I, however, soon convinced them of their error, by giving them demonstrative proofs that I was incapable of such baseness.

I never in my life felt myself in so humiliating a situation, as at the bare supposition of being so base as to take means of such a nature to release myself from just debts. Let the poor unfortunate man or woman, who by losses in trade, or by similar misfortunes, are reduced to a state of insolvency, take advantage of these opportunities to regain their liberty, and to be restored to their families and avocations; but all others, in my opinion, ought to be precluded from the advantages. The difficulty, indeed, lies in drawing the line.

Had the people where I lodged been perfectly acquainted with my character and prin-

principles, they would have known that I possessed a mind superior to every dishonest purpose. As I had not exonerated myself from my debts when I was so greatly involved, as I have given an account of, I could hardly think of such a measure, when I owed comparatively little to what I did then, and had been so greatly indulged by my honest creditors.

I had wrote to my son Metham, to inform him of the ingratitude of the woman he had recommended to my notice, and of her having secreted his letters ; but, to my very great surprise, had received no answer by the pacquet, though, in course, I might have had one by it. I was perfectly satisfied of his rectitude, duty, and affection ; and was convinced, that such treatment would have claimed his attention, had all been well ; I therefore was extremely apprehensive for his health. My fears made me imagine the worst ; and, as they had done in many other cases, they now proved prophetic.

Upon being disappointed of hearing by the pacquet, I wrote to Sir George, to enquire if he had received any intelligence ; and by the return of the post had an answer. Observing that the seal was black, it was some time before I had courage to break it open ; but when I had done so, and read, " now summon all your fortitude," it became unnecessary to see the rest of the contents.

The letter instantly dropped out of my hand, and I fell senseless on the floor.

When I recovered, I found the mistress of the house, and some others whom she had called to my assistance, drowned in tears. But tears refused me their aid; and through the want of the relief they usually afford in extreme grief, I was nearly choaked by the violence of mine. My feelings were really inexpressible. I could admit of no comfort. This of all my afflictions was the severest; and it was rendered more pungent, by the hopes I had encouraged of soon having the happiness to see him; and in him, all that a fond mother could wish or expect.

Thus did I lose a kind son, an indulgent friend, and an invaluable protector, and was left destitute of comfort or support.—What a succession of troubles, as you have seen, have been my portion! With truth does the * king exclaim in Hamlet, “When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions.”—My other son was in the East-Indies, and my fears, heightened by the consideration just quoted, raised suggestions in my mind, that I might be at that moment *childless*; for as to my daughter, I did not, nor could I, after her behaviour since my distresses have come upon me, look upon her in the light of a child; as she had shewn herself to be unnatural, and the true

* Hamlet, Act IV. Scene V.

daughter

daughter of a Calcraft. I can say, with *Lear, "She has tied sharp-tooth'd unkindness, like a vulture, to my heart."

My intimate companion wrote to Sir George Metham, to inform him of my deplorable situation, and, at the same time, to let him know that I had not ability to pay the last respect to my much lamented son. Sir George did not condescend to answer her letter. I should have wrote myself, but was unable, a fever having been the consequence of the agitation of my spirits; and when the violence abated, it became an intermittent.

As soon as I could hold a pen, I wrote to him myself, requesting that he would enable me to go into mourning; when, to my great mortification, he returned for answer, that it was not in his power, as his own expences called for all he had saved from the ruin of his fortune. This denial was the more unkind, and gave me a greater degree of pain than it otherwise would have done, as the motive of my request ought to have been felt as much by a father as a mother, for a son, of whom he had reason to be proud; instead of dissipating his fortune and time upon dissolute characters, who make him, by all accounts, the subject of indecent mirth. Old age and levity, will always be the contempt of the thinking part of the world, and

* King Lear, Act II. Scene XI.

the object of laughter to those who profit by their folly.

I did not know what to do, or how to procure the necessaries that decency and affection rendered so needful. In this dilemma, I applied once more to Mr. Stacie, who kindly lent me sufficient for my equipment; and advanced me besides, some money upon two portraits, which I had just received from Mr. Woodward's executors. These portraits Mr. Willet, the attorney, had assured Mr. Bromfield, that I *had* received *four years* before I *did* receive them. You may judge from this circumstance, that my complaints against him are not totally without foundation: on the contrary, it will serve as a corroboration, were any necessary, though in itself of *comparatively* trifling importance, that I do not complain without reason.

I was advised to petition the lords of the treasury, for leave to administer to my late son. Upon application to Lord Palmerston, his lordship condescended to write to me. He advised me not to think of such a step, unless I was sure there were effects sufficient to answer the great trouble and expence which would attend it. As I had received information that Captain Metham had disposed of his commission, and the purchase money was deposited in the hands of his agents Grey and Ogilvie; and that he had proposed coming
to

to England in order to purchase into the guards; I could not help thinking, with those who advised me to administer, that there certainly were effects in Jamaica. And in this opinion I was confirmed by the intelligence I had some time before received from Sir George Metham, of his son's having fortunately acquired eight thousand pounds, as already mentioned.

As I was convinced that he had nothing to induce him to make a will, till that eventual stroke of fortune had taken place, I was the more inclinable to administer as his mother: and this not only for the emoluments I might receive, but from a desire to pay all the debts he had contracted here, exonerate his memory, and, at the same time, clear myself from the heavy obligation I had entered into with him. ●

Instigated by these motives, I persevered in my design, and after some months application, got Mr. Goodflesh, a principal creditor, to interest himself in it. That gentleman prevailed upon Mr. Bucle, his attorney, to enter into an engagement for me at the commons, that I should pay as far as the assets would admit, first repaying myself the expences which had been incurred. After much trouble, letters of administration were granted; when to my infinite surprise, I was informed by Mr. Barry, General Dal-

ling's secretary, that there was a will, and of which he would send me a copy.

This has put it out of my power to act under my letters of administration, and consequently prevented me from taking any steps towards paying his debts. Besides which, it has involved me more than ever. The agents have refused to give me any account; and notwithstanding I have, for these three years, repeatedly wrote to several persons at Jamaica, I have never been able to get any account whatsoever of the real state of his circumstances. And I am still at a loss, from the many different reports, to guess whether he died in circumstances or insolvent.

Thus continually disappointed in all my expectations, the sport of fortune, and the slave of misfortune, I knew not which way to turn myself. However, to my no small satisfaction, his excellence Comte Haflang, about this time recovered from his late indisposition, and promised to renew the little income he had allowed me. The affliction I had undergone, had greatly impaired my health, but my spirits more. Whatever assistance I from time to time received, was devoted before it came into my hands. I once more applied to the proprietors of Covent-Garden Theatre for tickets, which Mr. Harris kindly granted me. But from a
mistake

mistake in the night, and an alteration in his play, his kindness had not the desired effect. I received, instead, twenty guineas from Mrs. Armistead for a box; and what adds to the obligation is, that I have not the pleasure of knowing her personally, though I have reason to be well acquainted with her liberal heart. At this period Comte Haslang had a relapse, which gave me great uneasiness.

Every thing now seemed to tend to augment my distresses and unhappiness.—No sooner did a new hope of extrication from my difficulties spring up, than it evaporated, and shewed that it had only been an empty bubble.—Every friendly twig that presented itself, and seemed to promise relief, broke on the first pressure, and I found myself rapidly hurried away by the tide of misfortune.—These observations recal to my memory a saying of my dear mother's, which I will give you, and with it conclude my letter. She used to tell me, when I was in very different circumstances from what I am at present, that *Fortune* had knocked so often at my door, and so often been denied admittance, that she much feared the fickle Dame would send an ugly relation of her's to call upon me, a *Miss* of her name; who, when she came, would be so bold an intruder, that she would not take a denial. I have woefully experienced her assertion. *Mis-fortune*

has, indeed, called upon me, nor could I shut the door against her.—She has not only been a visitor, but is become an inmate with me.—And I have been obliged, sorely against my inclination, to keep this maiden lady company.

G. A. B.

L E T T E R C.

March 9, 17—

THE failure of what was promised me as a support till my affairs were settled, and which I depended upon, but which was again put a stop to by Comte Haflang's release, still left me involved. I immediately lessened my expence, and removed to a cheap lodging, which I had formerly occupied, till I could afford a better situation.

In order to exonerate myself from debt, I accepted of a proposal made me by Mr. Woodward's brother, of disposing of the money in the three per cent consols, the interest of which he was to receive for his life. What made his proposal seem the more eligible, was, that Mr. Willet had repeatedly assured us, that if we filed an amicable bill for this purpose, he would by no means oppose it.

We accordingly brought the request before the barons of the Exchequer; and as we concluded there would be no opposition from the executor's attorney, we did not retain

counsel to shew cause, and set forth the reasons of our petition. But, to the perfect amazement of the solicitor employed by Mr. Woodward and myself, Mr. Willet used every argument in his power to prevent the bill from passing. He assured the court, that the petition was contrary to the letter and intent of the will; which was meant to tie me up, so as to prevent me from parting with the least tittle of what was bequeathed me, as the testator wished to guard against my extravagance, of which he had the greatest apprehensions. Upon this the bill was dismissed.

What could occasion such an alteration in Mr. Willet's sentiments, and excite him to such a wanton piece of cruelty, I am at a loss to determine; unless it was the fear of being obliged to come to a *regular account*, which it seems our solicitor had at the same time prayed for, and he must have submitted to, had our petition been granted; or else that he might have the pleasure of expending a little more of the money which was bequeathed me, upon another law-suit, to his own emolument. But this was of a piece with the rest of his conduct; and will, I trust, meet, ere long, with the censure it deserves. The consequences of this unexpected disappointment were, that I became more deeply involved, and was obliged in my turn to disappoint several I was indebted to. For

so certain was I of meeting with no obstruction to the suit, that I had promised to pay several sums I had been necessitated to obtain credit for.

From these accumulated circumstances, my distress was become so urgent, that notwithstanding the resolutions I had made, not to trouble his excellency any more, I found myself obliged to apply again to Comte Hafflang. The indelicacy of the measure, I acknowledge, hurt me much ; as I had every reason to suppose, the generosity of his excellency would have prevented any solicitation, had it been convenient ; for nature had blest him with the most liberal sentiments, such, indeed, as often involved him in very great difficulties. And as I had no reason to doubt his friendship, after such repeated instances of it as he had shown me, cruel necessity could alone have forced me to obtrude my distress again upon him.

Friendship with women, is said to be sister to love. You might, therefore, or at least the world might, be induced to suppose it was that kind of *friendship*, which is so nearly a-kin to love, that subsisted between the Comte and myself. But it is my boast, and upon reflection a source of happiness to me, amidst the censures that have been passed upon my conduct, that I have been blest with the *disinterested* friendship of some of the most conspicuous and shining characters
which

which have appeared in the senate, the cabinet, the drawing-room, and the green-room.

And this enviable distinction, I can only impute to my invariable sincerity and philanthropy; together with my never assuming any superiority of understanding—a vanity that too many females are apt to indulge, when they happen to have tolerable talents joined to reading; and more particularly so, if they are gifted with retention.—By not laying claim to praise, every little folly of mine had ten times the effect it would have had, if I had set myself up either as a wit, or a woman of literature and understanding.

Pardon the seeming egotism of this declaration; it does not, I assure you, proceed from vanity, but from a desire to convey to my fair country-women my ideas on this subject.—They may be assured, that a modest diffidence will give a lustre to their accomplishments, which the most ostentatious display of them cannot do.—The less pretensions our sex make to a superiority of talents and understanding, so much the greater will be the respect and admiration bestowed upon them, by those who have the *undoubted superiority*.

The next day, being Sunday, I went to Golden-Square, and had the infinite pleasure to see the Comte so far recovered, as to be able to attend divine service in the chapel, where he had not been for some months.

After

After his Excellence returned from chapel, I had the happiness of hearing from him, that his health was wholly re-established, and that he had not been so well for the last thirty years. He then told me, that he proposed doing me the honour of a visit very soon, and desired I would send my servant, the Thursday following, for an answer to the application I had made to him. To which he was pleased to add, that it gave him very great concern to have suffered me to remind him of his promise.

I was most sincerely happy at the Comte's recovery, as I was not only attached to him by obligations, and a series of many years professed friendship, but had a very great personal respect and regard for him. And I felt an additional satisfaction upon this occasion, when I considered, that I should be at once able to pay the demands I was pressed for, and have besides some little income to support me, till such time as my affairs were settled; when I should no longer be obliged to intrude upon the generosity of a friend, who had given me such repeated proofs of his munificence.

According to his Excellency's appointment, my little faithful maid, exactly at twelve, tripped away to Golden-Square, with a certainty of my wishes being gratified: and with the pleasing hope of seeing her old patron, who had always been particularly
partial

partial to her. And I myself was so very sure of receiving the relief I expected, that I insisted upon a female intimate, who was just come to town, staying dinner.—But how could I think of expectations being fulfilled in this world of uncertainty!—I who had so often experienced disappointments!

When my messenger returned, I eagerly held out my hand to receive the answer I doubted not but she had brought. When instead of delivering me the wished-for bounty, she exclaimed, “there is no answer; you have now lost your only friend; the Comte is dead.” Thunderstruck at such an unexpected piece of intelligence, I could not credit what I heard. I therefore immediately ran with all speed to his house, where, to my inexpressible grief, I found the information too true. The destroying angel had administered the three fatal drops the day before*.

As there was something very singular in this nobleman’s death, which happened suddenly and unexpectedly, after his almost

* The ancient as well as some modern Jews maintain, that the exterminating Angel, as soon as the Lord has given commission for the death of any person, hovers over the head of the destined mortal with a sword in his hand, at the point of which hangs three drops of gall. The object beholding this terrifying preparation, being suddenly dismayed, opens his mouth; when the Angel of Death administers the fatal anction, which has the following effect: the first drop deprives him of life; the second occasions a livid paleness; and the third reduces the Cadavre to dust in the grave. Calmut Dissert. sur le Desein de l’Armee de Sansach.

miraculous recovery, I think you will not be displeased with the recital. After I had taken my leave of the Comte on the Sunday, he ordered his chariot that he might pay a few visits; in part of the numberless ones he was, through his long indisposition, indebted. It being a very bleak day, some of the domestics requested his Excellency to postpone his intention till the weather was milder; but he persisted in his design, alledging, that it would be scarcely possible for him to return all his ceremonious visits of thanks before the birth-day.

He accordingly set off. But in his tour, one of the horses falling, he was obliged to let down the glasses of his carriage till the creature could be got up. To do this took some considerable time; during which, the easterly wind blew directly in his Lordship's face; a circumstance, which was sure to be attended with fatal consequences to a person who had not been out of his room for many months, and was just recovered from a complaint, so inveterate and dangerous, as to make his restoration almost a miracle.

At night he complained of cold. The next day he was seemingly better. But the following, the death warrant was announced; and I am incredibly informed, that instead of his being permitted to breathe out his last respirations in peace, he was seized into signing

a will to the prejudice of his son, the present Comte, who is an honour to his country, and of whom I have often heard his father speak in the most affectionate terms ; declaring that he was the best of children, and that he esteemed himself much obliged to him. What the Comte left behind him, could be no object of concern to him ; but, as a mark of parental affection, it certainly would have been pleasing to so good a mind as he is blest with.

The young Baron, the Comte's executor and heir, suffered himself to be totally guided by the persons about him ; as by all accounts he is polite and of a good disposition. These endowments, indeed, generally render the possessors more liable to the impositions of designing persons. In consequence of this, many indecencies were shown to the poor remains of this venerable member of the *corps diplomatique*, as well as to his chaplains and his old domestics. The first were gentlemen of exemplary piety, sound learning, and of orthodox principles : but the chaplain who was introduced over their heads, behaved towards them with such unmanly arrogance, as would have been illiberal in the highest degree, if shown even to insolent lackeys.

This behaviour soon obliged them to quit the chapel ; and would have been the means of its being totally deserted, had it not been for

for the timely arrival of that justly celebrated Irish luminary, Father O'Leary; whose patriotic sentiments, united to his unaffected piety, have done almost as much good, as the ignorance and blunders of many of his countrymen have been productive of mischief. I would here again remark, as I think I have done once before upon a similar occasion, that I would not wish to throw a general odium upon the Catholic clergy of Ireland by these strictures. I make no doubt but there are many as good, though few as conspicuous as the gentleman I have just mentioned. And I must repeat, that it is with great pleasure I recollect, that I formerly had the happiness of knowing Mr. Richardson, and Mr. Archer, who were likewise patterns of piety and learning, and were an honour to the tenets they professed.

As to the remains of my much respected friend, instead of having the honours paid him which were due to his dignity and high rank, he was deposited in the common burial-ground of St. Pancras; and for many months without even a stone, or any memorial to point out where he lay. This degrading treatment affected me the more, as his Excellency had shown much dissatisfaction at his old housekeeper's being buried in that place. He expressed himself with some asperity upon the occasion, saying, " I would pay more respect to the remains
" of

"of a dog that I valued." And it was not without great difficulty, he could be brought to consent to her interment there, even when he was informed it was by her own express desire. Poor man! what would he have suffered, could he but have known that his own earthly remains would be deposited in a place to which he had so great a dislike? It is true, that* "the mean and mighty, rotting together, have one dust; yet Reverence, the Angel of the world, doth make distinction of place 'twixt high and low."

All his dignities and honours could not secure him from repeated insults. For in addition to the foregoing, a chaplain, whom he had dismissed, and who had publicly affronted him, including *his whole family*, was immediately sent for, to fill up one of the vacancies.

I have dwelt much longer upon this subject, than otherwise I should have done, as the event has occasioned great surprise and much enquiry. And though the respect I bear the memory of so worthy a man, and so good a friend, might be supposed to make me partial, I can truly affirm, that I have recited the circumstances of his disrespectful treatment, and unseemly exit from the stage of life, after he had trod it so long, and in so irreproachable a manner, without the least

* Cymbeline, Act IV. Scene IV.

exaggeration. Indeed, I have mentioned it with far more lenity than the subject deserves.

The accumulated misfortunes, by which I was now overwhelmed, made me almost despair of ever conquering them. But upon my going to hear the Comte's funeral service, it was so perfectly and awfully performed by two of his *Lordship's own Chaplains*, that, struck with reverence and submission, I found myself enabled, by divine Providence, to bear whatever might happen, with fortitude and resignation.

So totally was I immersed in those thoughts which the solemn scene excited, that I did not observe that the pew of the deceased was filled with ladies; an indelicacy that was remarked even by the strangers, whom curiosity had led to see the ceremony. It certainly would have greatly added to the solemnity, had his seat been left vacant; as the regret of the audience would have received no little augmentation, from turning towards it the brimful eye, and missing the noble owner, who so lately as the Sunday before had graced it.

My sorrow at the recollection of the loss of this good friend is still so lively, that had I not reached the usual length of my letters, I should here be obliged to lay down my pen and conclude this.

G. A. B.

L E T-

LETTER CI.

March 13, 17—

IN the distressful embarrassment to which I was now reduced, I advertised for a place as house-keeper, or attendant upon an elderly lady or gentleman. As I had been accustomed to a sick room, was naturally tender to those who are indisposed, and had acquired much experience from the illnesses of several of my friends, as related, I flattered myself I should not fail to please whoever should honour me with the acceptance of my offered service.

As I still retained the name of West, I imagined that my having been formerly upon the stage, as well as the character for extravagance which had been imputed to me, would not prove an impediment to my scheme: and if it should afterwards be found out, I trusted, that my utility, and unre-mitted attention in my new employment, would endear me so much, that it would rather be a circumstance in my favour than disfavour. So sanguine was I of meeting with success in this application, that all my thoughts were employed in forming an under-plot to my piece; which was to introduce my partner in misfortune (to whom I was now considerably indebted) into a similar situation. But to our very great mortification,

cation, though I frequently repeated the advertisement, to the visible decrease of my nearly exhausted finances, I found I had nothing to hope from my new adopted scheme. Not a soul ever enquired after the advertiser, notwithstanding she could have rendered herself so serviceable.

So much do the news-papers now abound with offered services of this kind, that I believe the greatest part of them meet with the same fate mine did. They, indeed, answer more than one good purpose; for in the first place they tend to the increase of his Majesty's revenue, and in the next, to the emoluments of the proprietors of the papers; though this affords very little consolation to the poor wretches, who embark their last shilling upon the uncertain adventure.

About this time, I renewed an intimacy which had formerly subsisted between Mrs. Greville and myself; a lady whom my mother had known, and been partial to from a child. This lady had been rendered unfortunate by her union with a man that treated her with the greatest barbarity. She had endeavoured, by the most unremitted industry, to manage a trifling income left by her sister Lady Diemar. For, notwithstanding her theatrical talents are universally allowed, from some strange circumstances, she has been unemployed for several seasons. It is a mystery I could never,

unravel, why this lady should be thrown by, while others, with not half her merit, have engagements. The goodness of her heart prevailed over her scanty circumstances, and she cheerfully offered me the little assistance she could spare. But as it must be supposed from what I have said, that it could only be a temporary relief, and given at different times, it could not extricate me from my difficulties.

I wrote to India to my son and nephew, but no answers could be expected from them for two or three years ; and how to subsist was the labour of my thoughts. My maid was my greatest unhappiness ; for as to myself, I had now acquired a perfect indifference to whatever might befall me ; and my mind was more calm than it had ever been since my early days. This serenity was a blessing I had not experienced during the many years I had passed in folly and dissipation.

At the conclusion of the season, a gentleman, who possesses the most extensive philanthropy, and to whom I owe repeated obligations, opened a subscription for me at Brookes's ; but the summer being too much advanced, and most of the members gone into the country, it did not succeed equal to his kind intentions. The money arising from it, was barely sufficient to pay a demand which a severe creditor had sued me for ; and
what

what added to the cruelty, was his knowing that the debt was not of my contracting.

The subscription, however, was productive of a more fortunate circumstance than the sum received, as it *assured* a person, who belongs to the club, of my distress, which he had only slightly heard of from a female friend of mine: and I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude for his repeated assistance. It is with the utmost difficulty I can so far suppress my grateful sensations, as to keep them from breaking out into public acknowledgments for so singular an instance of benevolence; but I obey the injunction, though with reluctance. The consciousness of possessing a mind so enlarged, and the pleasures which flow from acts of beneficence will be his reward; and I shall never forget, that he is a shining pattern of the most unlimited and exalted humanity.

About this time my patron went abroad; but before he left England, he offered me his farther assistance. I, however, declined the offer, feeling myself already too much obliged; and having some reason to fear his generosity would overleap the bounds of prudence.

And I, in order to keep pace with his sentiments, at this juncture, fell into a very great inconvenience, through the high opinion I entertained of an artful woman, and the confidence I placed in her. So great was
my

my folly upon the occasion, that I blush at the recollection of it, and am even ashamed to mention it. And this at a time, when experience ought to have taught me to be careful; and after the miseries I had suffered through the duplicity of others, to be upon my guard against the false pretensions of those who descend to art.

Upon my returning home one day from a friend, whom I had been to inform of my situation; and as I was indulging my reflections on my folly; on the years I had lived; and on what I ought to have attained, a knowledge of the world; I was informed that a young gentleman, whose name was Nash, had called, and was very desirous to see me. As I was not at home, he left a note from Counsellor Murphy of Lincoln's Inn, the purport of which was, that the executors of Mr. Davy, to whom I had disposed of my annuity, had got a report in our favour against the executors of Mr. Calcraft; and if I had not disposed of the surplus of it, he would undertake to get that, and the arrears also for me.

As I had long since given up all thoughts of such an event, the deeds not being in my possession, I could not fail of being much pleased with the account. The only voucher I had to show, was the counterpart which Mr. Calcraft had sent to Ireland as before related. I had indeed, requested Mr. Townly Ward, of Henrietta-street, to meet the

attorney who acted for Mr. Davy's executors, to consult what could be done in the affair ; but I imagine, that through hurry of business my request slipped his memory. I had applied to this gentleman, as he might be supposed to know more of Mr. Calcraft's circumstances than any other person, from having been Mrs. Calcraft's solicitor, and had gained her cause. And, exclusive of these motives, I was induced to make application to him, from the great opinion I had of his abilities and rectitude in his profession, added to pecuniary favours. But hearing nothing from Mr. Ward, I looked upon the affair as totally lost ; the surprise and pleasure which the intelligence gave me, was consequently the greater.

I immediately waited on Mr. Murphy ; and so apprehensive was I of its being one of my usual flattering *nothings*, that I half doubted my senses. That gentleman desired I would go to Mr. Price, at Salters-Hall, who would acquaint me with the whole process. I directly set off, and found Mr. Nash, the chief clerk, who informed me that it was necessary to make an affidavit.

This was rendered needful, by our opponents having produced receipts of mine which I could not have given. For Mr. Calcraft never would receive any receipts upon account of the annuity, it having been in a state of litigation from the first hour it was claimed.

He

He always alledged, that it was meant as a provision for myself and the child I was then pregnant with, at the time it was settled upon me. During the whole period I resided in Mr. Calcraft's house, so far was I from making any demand of the annuity, that I never read the deed, nor heard it read, till I borrowed the money upon it. And upon this occasion I was greatly surpris'd to find, that the penalty of the bond, instead of being *thirty* thousand pounds, as I believed it to be, was only for *three* thousand. But at the time this discovery was made, I had discovered also, that a contract of much greater importance to me was invalid; and despis'd the giver of both too much, even to reproach him. Had such receipts been actually given, he would certainly have produced them to young Mr. Stubbs, his then attorney, as well as the general release now in his possession, which was given as a receipt to stop the process commenced for the remainder of my diamonds.

But notwithstanding the master's report, no money has been paid; and I have lately been informed that nothing can be received, till the whole of Mr. Calcraft's affairs are settled. This the executors do not, as I have already said, seem in haste to do; and the affair might not be concluded, till long after I am a prey for worms. Nor have I any hopes from the claims of gratitude, however well founded mine might be. But if the

Lucas family would please to recollect, they must know, that but for my mediation, Mr. Calcraft would not easily have been reconciled to his sister after her marriage.

Not that I would be thought to insinuate, that Mr. Lucas was not more than equal to an alliance with this great man; who was so exceeding generous, as to allow Miss Calcraft the sum of fifty pounds a year for her maintenance; a very scanty pittance indeed, to make the appearance of a gentlewoman. They will further please to remember, that after the reconciliation which I then brought about, Mr. Calcraft got his brother-in-law a lucrative place in the revenue; and likewise at his death, left great part of his estate to his sister and her heirs; upon condition, as I am informed, they take upon them the respectable name of Calcraft.

I had undoubtedly every claim to respect from the Lucas family, as I was more than a sister to Miss Calcraft, as well as to the general. The latter, indeed, always treated me as such. But where good-will is wanting, humanity sleeps. And Mr. Lucas may, as well as others, have been imprest with ideas to my disadvantage. At the same time I flatter myself, when he is acquainted with the *real facts*, he will be led to *pity* rather than *blame* me; and in consequence, be induced to expedite the payment of what I am a claimant for. When he has read the foregoing

going letters, I flatter myself he will consider that as but a small return, for my not only giving up a much more valuable consideration, but for my being also made miserable; by being a deceived slave for years to one, for whom, notwithstanding I once professed an esteem, I never *did* or could love.

I thought myself happy, in the prospect of the before-mentioned trifling addition to a small pension Mr. Jenkinson had granted me, upon my application, in consequence of the death of my son. I soon after had a remittance from abroad, which enabled me to repay the greatest part of what my worthy preserver had assisted me with. This I was the more anxious to do, for many reasons; but the strongest was, from being informed that he had occasion for the money. Being about this time likewise pressed for part of a debt, which I had entered into an engagement to pay, upon account of my ever regretted son, I parted with every guinea I was possessed of, and left myself, once more, penniless.

As I had every reason to pique myself upon the partiality her Grace of Bolton had for me, and relying upon that goodness and humanity which mark all her actions, I took the liberty to acquaint her Grace with my distress; and by the return of the post, I received a letter, with a draft inclosed, upon her banker. Though my indigence was

greater than can be expressed, yet believe me when I affirm, that I was made more happy by the receipt of her Grace's elegant epistle, than I was by the necessary gift which accompanied it.

There is a manner in conferring an obligation (as I have already observed) which doubly enhances the value of it. As a proof of this, I shall beg leave to transcribe, for your perusal, a letter I received some time since, from the most worthy of benefactors.

" MADAM,

" I AM much concerned to hear you still
 " labour under any difficulties. If it did
 " not sound cruel, I should almost be tempt-
 " ed to say, I was happy in the opportunity
 " of being of service to you.

" I have enclosed a draft for one hundred
 " pounds, which I beg your acceptance of,
 " and that you will never think of returning
 " the same. I hope it will in some measure
 " relieve your mind, which will more than
 " repay me. If, upon any future occasion,
 " I can be of service, I beg you will com-
 " mand me, in the assurance, that I cannot
 " feel a greater pleasure, than in giving ease
 " to a heart like your's. And am, with the
 " greatest esteem,

" Your obedient humble servant,

———"

Had

Had a youthful beauty received such a flattering epistle, vanity would, most probably, have misconstrued it into a billet-doux; but few such, I fear, are written to a person of a certain age. Indeed, I fear there are few such men; and, for the honour of the age, I wish I was permitted to insert the name; but I am commanded and must obey. How exactly does the following * passage, in which Shakspeare has so truly described the pleasures of beneficence, seem to correspond with the sentiments contained in the foregoing letter.

“ Oh you gods! (think I) what need we
 “ have any friends, if we should never have
 “ need of them? they would most resemble
 “ sweet instruments hung up in cases, that
 “ keep their sounds to themselves. Why,
 “ I have often wished myself poorer, that I
 “ might come nearer to you: we were born
 “ to do benefits. And what better or pro-
 “ perer can we call our own, than the riches
 “ of our friends? O! what a precious com-
 “ fort 'tis to have so many, like brothers,
 “ commanding one another's fortunes?”—
 Real disinterested friendship, is the *rara avis*
 of *this* age; and to me, the writer of the
 foregoing letter appears to be that phoenix.
 There may be, however, I make no doubt,
 many of the same generous disposition; but
 as I have outlived all my other friends, and

* Timon of Athens, Act I. Scene V.

have had more than came to my share, or than I merited, I ought to be thankful that I retain the good wishes of *one*.

Having given you the letter of a sensible and liberal friend, I cannot resist the temptation of sending you, by way of contrast, the beginning of one, containing the declaration of love, which I received from a noble lord, upon my return from Ireland: and this I shall do *verbatim*, to add to the singularity of it.

“ My dear Angle,

“ I have not capacity to tell you how much I love you.”

This short specimen, I think, will suffice to let you into the merits of this elegant epistle it is taken from; the whole of which, and it was a long one, was written in the same learned style, and spelt agreeable to the rules of the same kind of orthography. As I can say with Millamont, “ that an illiterate man “ is my aversion,” had I been inclined to gallantry, his lordship’s curious letter would have barred his success.

How comes it that ignorance is more conspicuous in a man than in a woman? As drinking and swearing, though dreadful vices in themselves, appear more horrid in the latter than the former. This observation
tempts

tempts me to proceed a little farther on the same topic. When once a woman divests herself of that delicacy and softness which is one of the most distinguished adornments of the female character, she debases herself into a brute; and having thus lost all claim to the name of a human being, she is looked upon with horror and contempt, by even the most dissolute of the other sex.

I have often thought, that the legislature ought to interfere upon this occasion, and enact some law to exclude such unhappy wretches from society. For as precept is less powerful than example, youth and ignorance are often deluded by them; as in general, they wish to make others as abandoned as themselves. Not that I wish my loved countrywomen to be tied down to the severe rules of the Lacedæmonian ladies. I would only recommend them to join the fortitude, patience, and courage of a Roman matron, to the beauty, good sense, brilliancy of wit, and delicacy of an English woman.

Methinks I hear you here exclaim, "You are a very proper person, indeed, to set up for a dictatress over the conduct of your country women; you who have so erred yourself!"—I acknowledge there is some room for your making this remark—appearances I own are against me.—But when it is considered, that my errors have proceeded rather from imprudence than a bad disposition,

that I have severely suffered for them ; and that I entertain no assuming ideas of my own understanding ; I hope my having intermixed with my story, when they occurred, such sentiments as seem probable to prove beneficial to those into whose hands they might fall, will not be objected to.

G. A. B.

LETTER CII.

March 23, 17—

A Little after Christmas, as a gentleman with whom I was very intimate, was condoling with me upon the many untoward events of my life, and the almost incredible disappointments I had met with, my maid came up, almost breathless with joy, for money to pay for a letter, which the postman said came from India. Concluding it was from my son, as he used always to direct for me by the name of West, and not having a doubt but it was for *me*, in the agitation of spirits I was thrown into by the unexpected occurrence, I tore it open, where it was already almost open at the back ; when, instead of the letter I was in hopes of receiving, I found two bills of exchange ; one drawn upon a gentleman in Marlborough-street for fifty pounds, which was the *second* ; and the other upon a gentleman in Ireland
for

for thirty, with a letter of advice written to him; but no other letter.

I sent immediately to enquire if any other Mrs. West lived in the neighbourhood, but could not learn that there was. I then recollected that Mrs. Charles Smith, of Wimpole-street, had called at my lodgings a year and a half before, and had left a card. As I had not the honour of knowing that lady, I judged she might have intended the visit for another Mrs. West, and consequently might be able to give me some intelligence relative to the affair. I accordingly wrote to inform her of my having received a packet; but as it contained no letter by which it could be known from whom it came, it might be intended for another. To this note I received no answer. I wrote again; when the chairman brought a verbal message which I could not understand. It was either that the lady was abroad, or in the country.

Not being able to gain any intelligence, after waiting some time, I carried the bill of fifty pounds for acceptance, it being at thirty days sight. When I presented it, the gentleman enquired where the first bill was; to which I answered, that I had not received it. We therefore conjectured it to be lost. At the time the bill became due, the friend with whom I had left it, sent me word that there was another claimant, who had produced the *third* bill of exchange, and proved to be the

husband of the Mrs. West, in whose favour the bills were drawn. I therefore delivered him the other bill and the letter. And thus vanished this pleasing expectation, as so many others had done before.

About this time Mrs. Douglas came, *as she said*, from Scotland. I met her with that open cordiality, which I hope will mark every action of my life, and shared with pleasure my little with her. But like others, when her situation altered, she wished to withdraw herself. For this purpose, she contrived to excite a disagreement between us. She commenced her rancour, by loading with abuse one of the first characters in the kingdom; whom she knew I loved when a child, and admire as a man.

A delicacy with regard to her situation, induced me to let that pass unnoticed. When this method failed, enraged at my hinting that she claimed relationship with a gentleman, to whom she had no nearer affinity than as sister to one of Adam's sons, her rage grew ungovernable. She scolded like one of those good women that take their seats at Billingsgate; and in their language, bestowed upon me every epithet that rancour, malice, absurdity, or poor weak woman could invent. This had, however, no other effect, than making me smile, which increased her rage even to madness. But I still made no return: for it has been an in-

variable rule with me, when I meet with ingratitude, duplicity, or intentional insult *from a person I regard*, to set them down in the Book of Memory, as departed this life: a mode which prevents those acrimonious feelings that result from too much sensibility. I consequently now esteem this lady as safely laid in the ground, and buried with her fathers, nor any longer an inhabitant of the terrestrial world. Forgive an impromptu upon this occasion—Avaunt, *Duplicity*, detested child of art, begot by Deceit, and nurtured by Hypocrisy! Dare not intrude thyself into the generous bosom, lest every vice, thy sure attendants, follow.—But come, oh come, *thou faithful inmate of my breast, Sincerity*, daughter of heaven! And with thee bring white-handed Hope, and the sweet cherub, Peace. *Possess me all*, till the cold arms of death embrace me, and this vain world deludes no more.

I have now, madam, gone through every incident of my life. A life that has been, as the relation of them must have convinced you, perpetually subject to vicissitude, disappointment, trouble and anxiety. And I think I have recollected every circumstance that will tend, either to furnish you and the public with amusement; to convey some degree of instruction; or to promote my principal design, that of laying, in an open and candid manner, before the world, the whole of my
con-

conduct. "Nothing have I extenuated, nor set down ought in malice." Whilst I have faithfully recounted my errors, I have traced them to the source from which they originated; and this I trust, will procure me some degree of exculpation. Sincerity, as I have often observed, is my boast. Indeed it is so much so, that were I guilty of the worst of crimes, I would not add to them by a denial.

I need not, I think, assure you, that the whole of the foregoing narrative consists of real facts. And though some of them may appear almost fabulous, there are many living witnesses to the truth of them. Nor are those incidents, which do not immediately relate to myself, less authentic. They either passed under my own observation, or are recited from undoubted authority.

I flatter myself you will readily perceive, from the circumstances I have laid before you, and from the general tenor of my conduct, that my misfortunes have rather proceeded from a train of untoward events, than from any other cause; and that my misconduct has been more the result of thoughtlessness and imprudence, than of a depraved disposition. And this being the case, I doubt not but my actions will be viewed by the world in a less unfavourable light than they have hitherto been.

As Shakspeare says in the motto I have prefixed to my "Apology," "that the web
"of

“ of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and
“ ill together;” that “ our virtues would be
“ proud if our faults whipt them not; and
“ our crimes would despair, if they were
“ not cherished by our virtues;” I hope this
consideration will weigh in my favour with
the liberal and unprejudiced. And though I
may not stand totally acquitted; though my
faults may overbalance my virtues; I trust
it will soften the severity of the public cen-
sure, and restore me, in some measure, to
their good opinion.

Should the relation of my errors and their
consequences prove a document to my own
sex; warn them to shun the paths I have pur-
sued; and inspire them with a greater degree
of prudence and reflection than I have been
possessed of; I shall have employed my time
to some good purpose.—The certain effects
of an inattention to a prudential system, are
poverty, distress, anxiety, and every atten-
dant evil, as I have most severely expe-
rienced.

May the world (particularly my readers)
have the same indulgence and compassion for
me, which I have unremittingly shown to
others! And may Sterne’s recording Angel
drop the tear of pity and obliterate my
faults!

G. A. B.



A
L E T T E R
T O
J O H N C A L C R A F T, E S Q.
F R O M
G E O R G E A N N E B E L L A M Y.

" So comes the reck'ning when the banquet's o'er,
" The dreadful reck'ning, and men smile no more."
G A Y.



A D D R E S S

T O T H E

P U B L I C.

THE following letter was advertised for publication in the month of October 1767 ; but Mr. Calcraft, by an unwarrantable and unmanly exertion of power, (as related in my "Apology") obliged me to suppress it. Upon reading it over, in order to lay it before the public, I find that the resentment by which I was agitated, at the time I wrote it, made me express myself in terms suited to the injuries I had recently received, and which to an unprejudiced mind, may appear too much tinged with passion. This would induce me to let it lie in a state of oblivion, as it has done for many years, were not its publication absolutely needful to elucidate the foregoing letters.

Most of the facts, it is true, have been there introduced, as they could not have been omitted without breaking the chain of the narrative ; yet as they are given in the following pages more explicitly, and tend particularly to an investigation of the ill-treatment I received from Mr. Calcraft, the propriety

priety of annexing the Letter, will, I flatter myself, be apparent.

To many it may seem illiberal to let it appear after his death; but when it is considered, that the publication is so essentially necessary for the vindication of my own conduct, and to clear me of many cruel aspersions which have been propagated to my discredit, I hope it will not, upon due reflection, be deemed so.

In the state it was intended at first to be published, many of the letters I had received from him, were interspersed, for the purpose of refreshing his memory. But as that is no longer needful, and they would by no means prove entertaining, as might be judged from that given in the "Apology," I have expunged them. I have also greatly curtailed the Letter itself, leaving out the most exceptionable parts. And as a poem, which was given me upon the occasion, has since made its appearance, it will be unnecessary to annex that.

Irritated by repeated injuries, and actuated by resentment at the time I wrote them, the following sheets were originally composed, with an impetuosity that might render them incorrect, and deficient in that regularity which might be necessary to make them fit for public inspection; and for this, I trust, a proper allowance will be made, more especially as I am not a professed Writer. Nor
shall

AN ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC. 141

shall any thing ever tempt me to take up my pen again upon so wretched a topic as myself. Perfectly at peace with the world, and every individual in it, even those who have loaded me with contumely and injuries, I can repeat the whole of the divine prayer, without any hesitation or mental reservation, and wait with patience and resignation the inevitable decrees of Providence.

Before I conclude this address, I would lay hold of the opportunity to request all my benefactors, to receive once more the warmest sensations of gratitude for the favours conferred upon me. I would likewise beg the community to which I belonged, to accept my acknowledgments. I am proud to boast my obligations to them; particularly to Messrs. Colman, Harris, Garton, Hull, and Mattocks. Nor am I a little concerned, that I am prevented by the late death of the worthy Mr. Younger, from placing his name in the number of those who assisted to save me from distress. And impressed with these sentiments, I shall ever remain, with the highest respect,

Their ever obliged,

Humble servant,

G. A. BELLAMY.

Duke-street, Dec. 1, 1784.



A
L E T T E R
T O
J O H N C A L C R A F T, E s q.
F R O M
G E O R G E A N N E B E L L A M Y.

S I R,

London, October 1, 1767.

IN compliance with your repeated solicitations, I sit down to write to you, as I am indebted to you for so many hundreds of letters. I must premise, that it will require your utmost patience to read so long an answer as I shall have occasion to make it; but as I flatter myself many others will peruse it besides yourself, I shall presume to interrupt your parliamentary studies; and entreat your attention, as much time and application will be needful for you to digest so long an Epistle.

I own, I do not think that a series of facts, relative to such insignificant beings as you and myself, can furnish any entertainment to the world; yet as I have had the happiness of being from my youth a favoured child of
the

the public, I shall beg leave to request that they would decide between us. I should still have borne my injuries in silence, were it not that whilst you were perpetually teizing me with letters, containing the warmest professions of unremitting affection, you, and your female Therfites, were propagating the grossest falshoods against me to my prejudice. But she has paid the debt of nature. So ends my enmity and *her ingratitude*; which, as I have been informed, was fully repaid by *your's*; therefore peace be to her manes.

There was a time, when I should have apprehended that you would have been greatly mortified at a public statement of such an account, and I should have been afraid of putting you to the blush by it; but as you have convinced the world by your recent behaviour, that you are above all *mauvaise honte*, and have overleaped the bounds of modesty, my fears are all subsided, and "I will a round unvarnished tale deliver." If I advance a falshood, reproach me freely for it. I will force even *you* to allow that I still am just.

I am sorry to remind you, that when Lord George Sutton first introduced you to me, you was called *honest John Calcraft*; an epithet, in my mind, infinitely superior to *Squire John* the parliament man. But as you always had a great deal of the *amor patriæ* at heart, you may perhaps feel yourself more
happy

happy in your present exalted situation. I beg your pardon for making use of those two Latin words, I forgot you did not understand that language; though, like Bonniface, you may, perhaps, love and honour the sound. But not to puzzle or give you more trouble than is absolutely necessary, I will inform you, that I mean *the love of your country*; and a more *worthy* or *learned* member than yourself, it must be allowed, is not honoured with a seat in St. Stephen's chapel. If your modesty prompts you to dispute this assertion, ever willing to please you, I will give up the point.

But to return.—You will please likewise to recollect, that the first visit you paid me after the unhappy dispute between Metham and myself, I candidly told you my situation. At the same time I added, that I was so alarmed at his passionate disposition, as to be determined never to marry him, were he willing to carry his promise into execution, though I preferred him to all mankind; nor would I enter into any other connection whatsoever. Confiding in your general character, and induced by your professions of friendship, I made no scruple thus to inform you of the situation of my heart; for at that period, I did not entertain the most distant idea of your harbouring a thought of love. Indeed, I could not suppose you was capable of so much presumption, as to think of ri-

valling a man, in every shape so infinitely your superior.

I then likewise informed you, that I had received ten bank bills of one hundred pounds each, in a blank cover. This gift I said, I attributed to Lord Downe, whose friendship for Metham prevented him from declaring himself my admirer. Notwithstanding the dial spoke not, it pointed. And as he was evidently the cause of Metham's rudeness to me, it was more than probable, that his *Lordship* thought of extricating me by it, from any little difficulties I might have been embarrassed in.

Upon my placing this confidence in *honest* Jack, you advised me to make use of the money; telling me, you was sure that the person, whoever it was, who had shewn himself so generous, would never expect a return. You then regretted, that it was not in your power to have been equally liberal. For had you not been circumscribed by fortune, you should have esteemed yourself happy in so favourable an opportunity of showing yourself my *disinterested* friend.

I was the more inclined to believe you sincere in this declaration, as the sentiments coincided with my own. For I can with great truth affirm, that I never rendered a service with a view of receiving a return; always considering the person who had the power of obliging, overpaid by the internal
satisfaction

fatisfaction which most surely results from a liberal deed.

I remind you of this conversation, as some years after you brought me in debtor *for this identical thousand pounds*. Now, as you have in innumerable instances given me room to question your veracity, I have every reason to believe you was *not* the donor of the sum; but took advantage of Lord Downe's death, and the confidence I had reposed in you, to make claim to it. For though I cannot compliment you upon your erudition, your grandmother might have taught you the old saw, "dead men tell no tales." His Lordship was unfortunately killed before you claimed the debt, and to this hour I firmly believe it was to *him*, not *you*; that I owed this mark of munificence.

Indeed, at the time you said I was indebted to you for it, though I then had many reasons to despise your meanness, I did not think you so totally void of every principle and feeling, as to be guilty of such an imposition; nor was it ever to be thought that a being, who by artifice had so far deceived mankind as to procure himself the epithet of *honest*, should sacrifice a title he had been at such pains to acquire, for nothing. I therefore, as I could not contradict your claim, allowed it; and it is now too late to dispute it.

You will please to recollect, Sir, that upon my flying to Mr. Gansell's for refuge

from the violence of Metham's temper, you had the modesty to introduce yourself at Donnalán Park, by a *fallacious copy* of a *contract of marriage*, signed by *yourself* and your attorney. This you gave to the good old gentleman for his attorney to transcribe upon a stamp, in order to convince him of the *rectitude of your intentions*. False betrayer! bankrupt in honour as in love! This contract was in the penalty of *fifty thousand pounds*, which the credulous good old man, who then thought you merited the title of *honest*, esteemed so sure a pledge of your faith, that he ordered his attorney to change the sum to thirty thousand; alledging, that was a sum large enough to bind even a rogue.—But, thank heaven, we had none but those who were *perfect in rectitude itself* to deal with.

The contract bond which Mr. Gansel's attorney drew from your *signed copy*, I afterwards delivered up to your attorney, Mr. Stubbs, of Parliament-street, in consideration of a sum of money which he brought me from you, together with an additional annuity of one hundred pounds a year, in trust, to Nicholas Linwood, Esq. Upon the receipt of this, I signed a general release; in which was included, the money remaining upon the diamonds you so bounteously bestowed upon your favourites.

As

As I presume your present studies occupy your mind too much to attend to such trivial matters, for, like Obadiah, the affairs of the state hang heavy upon your neck and shoulders, and you may have forgot the purport of it, I will present you with a copy of the ever-memorable contract, which General Gansel sent me upon the death of his father. I will give it you verbatim. But should any of your friends (if you have any) be desirous to prove the authenticity of it, they shall be satisfied, as your hand is as well known as your face.

*Copy of the Contract, brought ready signed by
Mr. Calcraft.*

“ KNOW all men by these presents,
 “ that I John Calcraft, of Brewer-street,
 “ Golden-square, in the county of Middle-
 “ sex, Esquire, am held and firmly bound
 “ unto Georgiane Bellamy, of Frith-street,
 “ Soho, Spinster, in the sum of fifty thou-
 “ sand pounds, of lawful money of Great-
 “ Britain, to be paid to the said Georgiane
 “ Bellamy, her certain attorney, executor,
 “ administrator, or assigns, firmly by these
 “ presents, sealed with my seal, dated this
 “ 22d day of January, 1752.

“ The condition of this obligation is such,
 “ that whereas the above-bounden John Cal-
 H 3 “ craft,

“ craft, and the above-named * Georgiane
 “ Bellamy, have mutually agreed to marry
 “ with each other; and therefore the above
 “ bound John Calcraft, shall and do marry
 “ the said Georgiane Bellamy, according to
 “ the rites and ceremonies of the Church of
 “ England; and shall not intermarry with
 “ any other person whatsoever, save the said
 “ Georgiane Bellamy, or during the natural
 “ life of the said Georgiane Bellamy; then this
 “ obligation to be void, or else remain in full
 “ force.”

Signed

JOHN CALCRAFT.

Now, my *worthy* Sir, this transaction will, I
 hope, convince the world, though it may not
 your partial self, that from the moment you
 signed this contract, being at the same time
 married, and therefore unable to fulfil it,
 you forfeited all title to the smallest degree of
 honesty. And I might truly pronounce you
 to be,

“ Daring in vice, which does to profit tend, .

“ False to thy God, thy mistress, and thy friend.”

You will further please to observe, that
 the date to this fallacious contract was ante-

* The Writer was always called Georgiane, till of late years,
 when it being necessary to refer to the register, it was found to
 be written George Anne.

cedent

cedent to my quarrel with Metham; that fatal passion, which you availed yourself of, not happening till his birth-day, which was the *thirtieth* of January, at which time you was honoured with being his humble friend. And even at this time, you intended to plant a dagger in his heart, as you was well convinced you must do, by supplanting him in my favour. For his fondness for me was well known to be carried to every excess of extravagance. And even the fault, which was the cause of our separation, evinced his madness; as no man, particularly one so remarkably well bred, could have made use of such rude expressions, before a select company of persons of distinction, unless he had been at the time torn on the rack of jealousy. But why do I talk to you of a breach of friendship, who esteem the word as merely a bugbear, and boldly set that, as well as every other virtue, at defiance!

I will now, if you please, take a retrospect of the innumerable favours you have graciously bestowed upon me. And this I can the more easily do, as they are engraven on the tablets of my heart, from whence they never can be eradicated.

After the mockery at Donnalán Park was over, you declined my worthy friend's solicitations to spend a few days with him. Some remains of compunction, for the deception you had just been guilty of, was, I

believe to this hour, partly the cause of your declining the invitation. You alledged, that business of the greatest consequence required your being in town. But the moment Mrs. Smith and myself were seated in the chaise, you rode up to it, in seeming transport, and informed me, that my mother was waiting for us at Ingatestone.

I afterwards learnt, that your imposition had extended to her also; and that you had prevailed upon her to accompany you to that place, with the assurance that Mr. Gansel had been witness to our being united for life. Relying upon the rectitude of this deceived, but worthy man, she did not entertain a doubt of our being married. The good woman consequently made use of all the power she had over me, to induce me to forget Metham, and learn the road to tranquillity, which I had so long been a stranger to.

Nor was you under any apprehensions of a discovery taking place through Mrs. Smith. As she was totally in the dark with regard to the transaction, she could only acquaint my mother that the old gentleman seemed happy at my being eligibly settled for life. As for myself, I was so perfectly miserable, that I evaded coming to an explanation; especially as the reproaches bestowed by my mother upon Metham, cut me to the soul. The two old ladies were as gay as if their
years.

years had been renovated, and seemed as happy, as if Hymen had already been present in his saffron robe, and with his lighted torch, to sanctify my wretchedness.

Though you are in general reluctant in doing justice, yet you must allow, that when the unhappy union had taken place, I showed nothing but the strongest marks of aversion towards you. And had I *not* been partial to another, it was impossible for a girl of delicacy to be sensible of any degree of tenderness for a being like yourself. For I have often been ready to believe the Pythagorean system, and suppose you possessed more of the brute than of a rational creature. Two such opposite beings surely never met. To be happy, minds should be congenial. It is impossible that tranquillity, much less happiness, should exist where the sentiments disagree. It will be in vain to expect an union to be perfect, unless both have one pursuit, one hope, and one desire.

When I reproached you with your duplicity, in not accepting Mr. Gansel's invitation, you told me you was anxious for my mother to be of the party; and as she was not acquainted at Donnalán Park, had you staid there, you could not have been completely happy, as she would not then have been witness to your unbounded felicity. *Fine words!* I wonder where you *stole* them! The apathy which had taken possession of

H 5 my

my mind, and which bordered upon stupidity, prevented me from investigating your behaviour at that time. And as I really believed you to be a man of integrity, and imagined my lot cast for life, I did not dare to examine the sensations of my heart upon the occasion.

When we came to town, you entreated me not to receive the visits of Lord Robert Sutton; as it was from the confidence he placed in you, by making you the furtherer of his affection, and from poor Metham's madness, you both founded your hopes. This Nobleman was your intimate, and had engaged you to plead his cause. But the man who can descend to be a pander, will gladly betray, as you did, his employer.

During my absence from town, I found you had been very lavish in bribing those about me to depreciate Metham, who, whilst he was vilified, was happily insensible. Every ray of reason had deserted him, and he was in such a state of distraction, that he would have put an end to his existence, but for the unremitting care and tender friendship of Major Burton.

The morning after our coming to town, you called upon Miss St. Leger, afterwards the Major's lady, to anticipate the joyful news of your being the happiest of men, by having secured me for life. This was truly a Machiavilean step, as it totally prevented her
from

from mentioning her lover's friend, whose character you was, at the very time, taking every method to blacken. In the same manner you introduced yourself to Lady Dowager Dillon and Lady Tyrawley, though you had never been in company with either of them, but once at my house. This you did, because you were well assured, two ladies of such unsullied virtue would not have continued to visit, had they not supposed me to be really married; which indeed, both of them imagined to be the case, during my residence with Metham.

I was for some time after we came together lulled into a stupid languor, by the many falsehoods told of the man, you had so grossly deceived; and supposing my situation permanent, I endeavoured to make necessity a virtue; and if I could not love you, which I found to be impossible, I resolved to atone in some degree for it, by the most unremitting attention to your interest.

In consequence of this resolution, I introduced you to General Braddock; well assured that his partiality to me, would soon prevail upon Lord Tyrawley to visit and befriend you. The result turned out to my wish, and you was soon made Agent to both. But I shall not dwell longer upon this subject, as I mean, though a bad arithmetician, before I conclude my Letter, to state a fair account of debtor and creditor between us. And that it is a

true statement, many, very many living witnesses, will be able to vouch.

The April following, you earnestly entreated me to give up the annuity granted me by Metham, alledging that it was highly improper for a woman, who in appearance *was*, and would soon actually *be*, your wife, to retain any security, or receive any emolument from another man. I felt the truth of your argument, and wrote immediately to Mr. Moor, who was then in Ireland, to whom I entrusted the writings, but by some accident or other they were not then returned.

Upon this you gave me a settlement of one hundred and twenty pounds a year, which you had come into possession of by the demise of your grandmother, who was really a *gentlewoman*, and the first in your noble family. I do not mean in this observation, to degrade you in your own good opinion, for you cannot be lessened in mine. We all would be great, beautiful and rich, had we the power. And you have ambition enough to wish, that the noble blood of the Howards ran through your veins. But was even that the case, it would only be the means of rendering you more conspicuously contemptible. For it is only goodness in the extreme, joined to shining talents, and tenacious honour, that constitutes *true* nobility. Mr. Pope, with great judgment, says,

“Worth

“Worth makes the man, and want of it the fellow;

“And all besides, is leather or prunella.”

Your great qualifications lead another way. Passion, avarice, and luxury, mark you so strongly, that Comus's court seems to me your ultimatum; for neither religion, friendship, nor any social virtue, deigns to inhabit your capacious bosom.

When you presented me with the annuity, which was for my natural life, and for that of the child I was then pregnant with, I neither read, nor ever heard read, the writings, till I borrowed money upon it; and then I found that you, or the attorney, had made the penalty *three* thousand pounds instead of *thirty* thousand. A mean, useless piece of chicanery, but corresponding with all your actions.

Upon my removing to Brewer-street, I undertook to be your housekeeper for four hundred guineas a year, thinking that my salary and benefit would be fully sufficient to support us till your business should increase. At the end of three years, I found myself so greatly involved, that I was obliged to inform you of my having contracted debts to a large amount; when, to my very great surprise, you told me I was indebted to *you* for the thousand pounds I had been foolish enough to mention to you.

I scorned

I scorned then to remind you, that my income was at that time infinitely greater than your's; and that I spent it in your house, with the greatest cheerfulness; not doubting but you would fulfil your liberal professions, when it was in your power; but to my cost, I found that in promises you was *mighty*, but in the performance of those promises, *nothing*.

When you grew rich, your avarice increased in proportion with your arrogance; and notwithstanding you denied *yourself* no luxury, you not only refused to pay the debts contracted for your house, but what I had expended for your brother and sister, whom at that time I considered as my own. I do not mean to pique myself upon œconomy. My profession took up too much of my time, to permit me to mind household affairs; and from the constant company we kept, numbers of whom were personages of the highest rank, something more was required than a tolerable income to entertain them: and, to my great satisfaction, you have been obliged to own, that your table was more elegantly served, during the time I presided as Governante, than when you allowed a *Maitre d'Hotel* two thousand five hundred pounds a year, merely for your table, though you rented an additional farm towards supplying it.

Reflect also upon the expence I put myself to in furnishing the garden at Hollywood,
2
building

building a hot-house, succession-house, ice-house, together with the expenditure on the shrubbery ; and all this from the suggestion, that you had settled the place upon my daughter and myself. Nor was I informed that this was not your intention, till our separation had taken place ; when you disposed of it, pretending that you could no longer reside in an habitation which reminded you every moment of my loved idea. How this assertion corresponds with your behaviour at that period, and ever since, I leave you to judge.

If you will not do me the justice to own that I was indefatigable in promoting your interest, any of our acquaintance will affirm for me, that I was. It is a well known fact, that at the risk of my life, I once got out of my bed, at a time some promotions were to be made, in order to claim the promises of two officers who were to have regiments the next day. In the account of debtor and creditor, I purpose to present you with at the conclusion of this Letter, I shall set down the names of those gentlemen, to whom you are indebted for their agency through my interest.

As to the great expence you was at, it could not be attributed to me. For if you kept an expensive table, it was your interest to do so ; and I could have no other advantage

vantage from it, than not being reduced to sit alone with a man, who was, at best, the object of my disregard and pity, from his ignorance and meanness. For notwithstanding you value yourself upon the manly exercise of boxing, yet, when you went to Cliefden, you enquired what a gladiator was, to the surprise of the company, who all concluded that you must have been acquainted with a brother combatant.

I am unable to enumerate the injuries you have done me. I was a slave to you for six years : not only to your interest, but thro' the obstinacy of your ungrateful disposition. What pains have I not taken to prevent your flying in the face of one of the warmest of patrons, and the best of men, if he bestowed any place upon his own relations, conscious of your great and superior merit!

There is one accomplishment which I must readily allow you, and that is the great art of deception. By this you blinded your patron, who was one of the most sagacious of men; and, likewise, a noble Marquis, who had a heart too open to believe, that deceit could be hid under the masque of sincerity. You plied that nobleman with your *alies de perdri*, till you had the presumption to hope you would be able to accomplish your ambitious views, by forming a match between his Lordship and your daughter ; a match unequal in every shape;

as

as he was not only old enough to be her grandfather, but had your views been accomplished, he must, upon reflection, have been unhappy, from the idea of having polluted his blood with your's. But the girl had resolution enough to resist your compulsive threats; and I doubt not will be happier, with a mate more equal to her birth.

I have often wondered that you and your Friend Doctor Francis, who lays claim to the merit of translating Horace, never studied together the Ode which begins with these lines,

“ The man that's resolute and just,

“ Firm to his principles and trust, &c.”

Had you done so, you both would have appeared in a more eligible light than you now stand in.—But to proceed.

When Mr. Davy applied to you for the payment of the annuity on which I had borrowed five hundred pounds, without considering my condition, you came abruptly into my room to inform me of it. Justly incensed at your rudeness and want of feeling, (as my situation ought to have claimed at least your *attention*, for I know you to be incapable of tenderness) I desired you to leave the room, and pay the money.

I, at

I, at that time, became acquainted with your having been married many years before I had the misfortune to know you; the consequences you are well acquainted with. My being deprived of my senses prevented me from making known my injuries. Had I done so, it must have endangered your life. For though Lord Tyrawley might not have been Quixote enough to enter the lists with you upon account of a woman who had forfeited all claim to his protection, yet the deception you had been guilty of, in making his Lordship believe we were married, would most indisputably have excited his resentment, as it could only be deemed a subterfuge to answer your interested purposes.

Besides this, if I am rightly informed, you would have roused the resentment of a right honourable gentleman, that you gained to introduce you as an *honourable* lover to the niece of one of the first Duchesses in the kingdom. But the chastisement you would have received for that would only have been manual. We are all sensible you have not the inclination to resent such treatment, as the blows given *manfully* by an officer you had justly offended, and borne *patiently*, were never noticed.

Upon this occasion, you adopted by intuition, Squire Ralph's maxim. I say, by intuition, as I can by no means suppose you acquainted with a book wherein all science and
learning

learning is contained. You, however, abound with *worldly wisdom*, though you are not *learned*; and think with Ralph, that

- “ He who fights and runs away,
- “ May live to fight another day.
- “ But he that is in battle slain,
- “ Will never rise to fight again.”

Cowardice is the concomitant of guilt. In what a supreme degree then must you possess it! The first principle of rectitude, is that noble courage which undoubtedly meets every difficulty, and looks upon life as nothing, when compared with the dread of preserving it with dishonour. You see I would still wish to instruct you; though I much fear, all this will be as little understood by you as algebra; nothing like a sentiment of any kind ever having found a place in your bosom, which is as dark as Erebus.

You now find, that with your great achievements, you have altered a disposition which, before your cruel treatment, never knew the sun to go down upon its wrath. You have presumed too far upon my apathy. But the gentlest tempers, when roused by repeated injuries, are not so easily quieted as those who are inflamed by every gust of passion. Before you had provoked me, you ought to have recollected what Lord Tyrawley so often warned you of, when he told you I was by nature a lamb, but, being roused, a lioness.

I will,

I will, however, *quiet* your seeming terror, by assuring you, that no provocation whatever, shall, at any time, tempt me to divulge the confidence placed in me, whilst I had the misfortune to be in your family. The seal of secrecy must never be broken. No aggravation can plead excuse for a breach of trust of that nature; and racks should not compel me to divulge what was entrusted to me when we were upon better terms. This superiority of mind I will retain above you. And I will force even *you* to own, with shame, that I still am *just*. When you sent to request my silence upon this head, I was so much increased, that I knew not how to account for the daring supposition. I could not even think so meanly of *you*, as to suppose you could be guilty of a crime so atrocious and dangerous to society, particularly to a man who had raised you from nothing.

As you may set your heart at rest upon this subject, the fair field of retaliation may now go on without any violent agitations being excited in your mind; as injuring a woman, *with the law on your side*, is a trifle of no importance. You may think it so. But there will come a time when pungent remorse, the sure attendant on deception, will, if you possess the least atom of rectitude, harrow up your soul.

There are but two periods of your existence in which I would wish to behold you. The
first

first is, *at that awful moment*. The second is, before that dreaded period happens. It is at the time you quit being a Yea and Nay man, and commence orator. Were I at the farthest part of the globe, I should wish to mount a Pegasus, to be present on the momentous occasion; as the power of a Demosthenes, joined to the sweetness of a Pliny, must *forcibly* elucidate the laws, and prove you the Tully of the age.

You see my heart is ever warm in your favour. And after I have received such numerous unmerited favours from you, how can it be otherwise; for *Gratitude* is my second darling virtue. She is younger sister to Sincerity, with whom she generally keeps company. I once was under the necessity of repeating to you the following sentence from Dryden,

“ He that is ungrateful has no crime but one.”

But the person who delights in sincerity, cannot harbour that heinous vice. She guards the heart from a crime of such a black dye. She is always as open as the day, unsuspicious as the lamb, and innocent as the dove. She is secure in her own coat of mail, for no assailant can pierce her celestial armour.

I told you I wished to instruct you. If you are perverse, it is ~~not~~ my fault. But
your

your good fortune, together with your parliamentary studies, so totally possess your mind, that I imagine my intended kind documentations will have little effect. Ignorance itself must, however, allow that my intention is good. Always pleased when I am putting the blind in the way, I have intruded upon your patience, in order to point out to you the *right road*. Though you have hitherto been bewildered, repentance never comes too late. I shall therefore end my digression with two lines, spoken by Alinda to the captain of the Banditti, in the "Pilgrim,"

"Go, go, say thy prayers ;

"For thou hast as many sins as hairs."

The verse, though unequal, is adequate to your scientific knowledge, who would prefer the bellman's yearly production to the sweet numbers of Pope.

As my illness was long and painful, I have taken the liberty to introduce these sentiments in order to fill up a chasm. You complain of the enormous expence my indisposition cost you, and set down nine hundred pounds for physicians fees. As I told you in a former instance, I have reason to doubt your veracity. If that was the case, how came Mr. Adair to be so poorly gratified? Doctor Lucas, who restored me, had nothing but an ensign's commission for his son. And Doctor Ford, to whose care I was
con-

consigned at Bristol, only received such a trifle as was too contemptible to offer a gentleman of his known abilities, after the great attention he had paid me.

You will please at the same time to recollect, that your deception was the cause of my illness. It was not to be supposed a young woman, accustomed to adulation, could be informed that all her hopes were blasted by having gone through six years of servitude, (for I can call it by no other name) with a man she could neither love, esteem, or regard (for fire and water are not so opposite) with any tolerable degree of patience. Degraded in my own mind in the supposition of a permanent connection with you, what must I not feel at being made a tool to the art of the meanest wretch of the creation! All I had left to divert my mind on this occasion was to be profuse; at once to indulge my own feelings for the poor, who were at that season in extreme want; and to mortify you, who, though you seemed to wish to gratify me, yet silently repined at what you afterwards called my unwarrantable extravagance.

But this you would not have consented to, had you not had a grand point in view, that of bringing me back to your detested habitation; and to effect this, after you had found your repeated promises to Mrs. Sparks ineffectual, and that I steadfastly refused to hear
from

from you, or of you, you then waited upon Lady Tyrawley, and once more imposed upon her, by pleading the violence of your passion. You at the same time bound yourself to her ladyship by the most solemn oaths, that would she but prevail upon me to return to Parliament-street, you would not only pay my debts, but sign a *carte blanche* to submit to any terms I should require. Her Ladyship and Mrs. Sparks, are living witnesses of your repeated perjuries.

Tired out with solicitations, which I should still have resisted, had not the friend of my youth, and the director, at this time, of all my actions, advised the indiscreet step, at last I yielded. Indeed his honest heart could not suspect, that, after having injured me in the tenderest point, you would add to the crime, by forfeiting the oaths you had made to fulfil your promises. It is true that you kept one of them, that of not seeing me alone; but this you did, lest my reproaches should confound you.

At length, after binding yourself every year for four years, you had honesty enough to inform me, that you would not comply with my expectations. This was the only action of your life, which I can term a favour; for my hatred and contempt were so great, that you and your house were my detestation. So extreme was it, that I languished more for the hour of separation, than ever fond lover

lover did for receiving his bride's hand at the altar.

Now, Sir, your last transaction crowned every one of the foregoing. As I despised you too much to have any altercation with you, particularly upon pecuniary matters, I asked you to lend me two thousand pounds to redeem my jewels, which were at that time deposited with Mr. Bibby, pawnbroker, in Stanhope-street, Clare-market. Upon your granting my request, I delivered the duplicates to your clerk, Mr. Willis, to get them out. And as you refused to pay the interest, I gave him a draft upon my mother for the sum it came to, payable in six months; which Mr. Bibby, not knowing my situation at the time, and supposing I should still remain in Parliament-street, accepted.

Mrs. Walker, I find, had informed you, of my fixed determination to leave you, some days before, though you affected to be surprised when the chaise came to the door. And when I went to Dublin, Colonel Sandford, your confident, acquainted me, that you likewise affected to be jealous of a being, who, you was well assured, was only the pleader of another's cause. The absurdity of this supposition needs no comment. You know my disposition well. You know that I am every thing in extremes, and despise mediocrity, particularly had I been in love; which would have prevented my leaving my

admired Strephon. But you make me a princess Huncamunca, who says,

“ I have a heart that’s large enough for two ;

“ I’ve married him, and now I’ll marry you.”

But you could not have any possible right to censure my conduct, had it been so, as the terms we were upon made me mistress of my own actions. The falsity, however, of your wicked assertions, was fully evinced by my going to Ireland ; for had I listened either to the noble Earl, or his Mercury, I should, undoubtedly, have remained in England, as his lordship’s known generosity would have enabled me to pay my debts, (though mostly contracted for you) and to have lived splendidly.

You were no stranger, I am sure, to the truth of this, for your intimate Mr. M—— of the war-office, was well acquainted with it, as he came to Bristol on purpose to solicit the interest of the noble Earl, who was then minister of state. My feelings prevented me from falling into that connection. And with a nobleness of spirit, which does his lordship infinite honour, instead of being offended at my rejection of his suit, he begged to be permitted to continue my friend, though I would not receive him as a lover. Had I been inclined to listen to his lordship, his being married was an insuperable bar. I
should

should not have taken the liberty to mention this transaction, had I not had his lordship's leave, in order to exonerate me from the many false imputations you have thrown upon me, and which he himself has heard repeated at Arthur's.

But to return to my jewels.—You will please to recollect, that when I delivered you the duplicates, I gave you at the same time receipts signed by Maisoneuf, Deard, and Lazarus, for six thousand three hundred pounds; and requested you to keep them till two great marriages, which were then in agitation, should take place; as the *cap-windmill*, and one of the necklaces, together with my best ear-rings, were of exquisite workmanship. I am obliged to be thus minute, as I am sensible your memory often fails you, especially where the circumstance is neither lucrative nor agreeable. How well you kept this last promise, I shall take the liberty to remind you.

When you prevailed upon Lord Tyrawley to come down to Bristol, to use his interest with me to return to Parliament-street, you artfully informed him of the contract, and had the effrontery to say you were ready to execute it. But in order to prevent our coming to an explanation, like a true disciple of Machiavel, you prevailed upon General Honywood to accompany his lordship. You very well knew my sentiments,

and were assured, that had you possessed the power of compleating your engagement, my aversion was too firmly rooted to consent. I should have rejected your hand with scorn. The professions you made me, every post, were despised; and your affecting to feel for my loss, was contemptible, even to laughter.

The numerous stories propagated to my disadvantage, I could not hear till my return from Ireland, and then I only heard part: but a few days since I received full information of the whole, which forces me to call you a *dark assassin*. Upon my arrival at Chester, my maid brought me a curious letter, wherein, amidst nauseous professions of unalterable affection, you mentioned, that you had sent me the deed of annuity for one hundred and twenty pounds, which you said it was right that I should have; not that you meant it for my provision. What a poor flimsy artifice, which an infant could easily discover, as there was wrote upon the back of it in large letters, "Counterpart of the deed of annuity assigned to ————"
"Morris, in trust for Mr. Davy." I am not surpris'd at your persisting in duplicity. The wonder would be, that all your thoughts and actions were not strongly marked with it.

Upon my arrival in Ireland, I received a letter from Alderman Cracroft, wherein he mentioned, that application had been again made to you for payment of the annuity, and
that

that on your peremptory refusal, which you had given, alledging that it was only meant for my support, and not to be disposed of, they would come upon me for payment, if I did not return the enclosed power signed, to enable them to sue for it. I accordingly signed and returned the writing; and their arresting you for it, was owing to your own insolence. It was occasioned by your ungentleman-like behaviour to Mr. Constable, a person, who, though not quite so rich as yourself in money, was infinitely richer in integrity, propriety of demeanour, and character.

Why, *at this time*, did you not reproach me with being the cause of that insult, as you afterwards termed it? For still you pestered me with letters, but neither of them contained one word of this mighty event, which you ought to have expected long before, as it was threatened. Nor was there a single word about the jewels. But as I would not write to you upon any account, I left that affair to the alderman to refresh your memory; when, to my infinite surprize, he informed me, in his next letter, that you had delivered them to Jefferies in the Strand, who had knocked them to pieces, and sold them for eleven hundred pounds; though Maisonneuf, in his receipt, had agreed to take them back, allowing ten per cent. for the time I used them. As most of the capital articles

were set by him, it would certainly have been not only more eligible, but more *honest*, to have made application to him, on the disposal of them, or to any other jeweller, in preference to a sword-cutler.

Indeed, I believe you was so ashamed of this transaction, that you ceased persecuting me any more till after my return to England. I will do you the justice to believe, that you would not have renewed your solicitations *then*, but from the knowledge you had gained of a political party frequenting my house. And though the noble earl was no longer minister, yet you hoped to make me once more the ladder to your ambition. But when you found all your endeavours fruitless, you most wickedly poisoned the mind of my first protectress, by making her believe it was her husband that enabled me to live as I did. By thus clouding your calumny, with assuring her ladyship that it was the Earl of H—— who befriended me, you planted a dagger in my heart, which I was not made sensible of till very lately.

The baseness of this transaction was cruelty in the extreme, as you well knew it was another Earl of H—— that visited me; and had also been well informed, that his visits were not of a nature to give umbrage to any person, there being many others of the same party. But what added to the iniquity was, your innuendo of my not only
having

having an affair of gallantry with a married man, but with the husband of the very lady who had protected me from my earliest infancy.

And even at this time you were well convinced, that I was disposed of to another. The idea of injuring the peace of mind of *any* person, is what my nature shudders at; particularly of one, who had honoured me with the strictest intimacy. Indeed, I have always esteemed the crime of adultery equal to that of murder, as I know not any difference between being robbed of life, or the affections of the object which endears it. These are notions which you have convinced the world by your late connection, that you have no idea of.

I must beg leave, though out of form, to rectify a mistake, under which I am informed you labour, about the visit I paid you and your innamorata, at a certain house near Leicester-Fields. I beg leave to assure you, that I should never have felt the least sensation of jealousy, had you chosen to give any lady the preference to me, even when we were upon the best terms. And this you must be satisfied of, if you will be at the trouble to investigate my behaviour during the wretched years I thought myself your partner.

But your apprehensions did not proceed from that humane motive. It was the fear of my making your amour public; which

must have been productive of the most serious consequences, both to your person and pocket. My *intimate's* ingratitude was what I wished to be convinced of; but for that, you might have taken up your residence together for life, and I should have said with Sir Novelty, "a good riddance, stab my vitals!"

But to return once more to the jewels.— Upon my going, soon after my arrival in England, to a party at Lady St. Leger's, I was not a little surprised at seeing my bracelets, which were very remarkable, upon a lady's arms; nor was I less so, at being informed, that you had insisted upon her accepting them for the civility she had shewn your daughter. For this I was infinitely obliged, as your reigning favourite was a bad example for a young mind to have in view. Lady Harrington, at the same time, told me, that you had presented your Del Tobosa, with my best ear-rings, and several other jewels, which formerly belonged to me.

I was no longer at a loss, how to account for their only amounting to the eleven hundred pounds you said they were sold for. But, indeed, you always was generous, when you could be so at the expence of others. For example; I will just refresh your memory, with the recollection of twelve pints of *Tokay* which Mr. Fox made me a present of. When I requested a pint for a lady who
was

was a particular favourite of mine, and whom you professed much to admire, it was with the greatest difficulty one pint was obtained; as you alledged that you had given six to a favourite of your own, four to persons you had expectations from, and kept the two remaining for yourself.

Poor wretched being! who knew not that supreme pleasure of dividing with others, what providence has blest you with. Indeed, upon a retrospect of the partiality you have been favoured with by fortune, I could almost adopt the Pagan system, and suppose the blind lady presided at your birth, and stamped you *another Midas*. To carry on the allegory, I should farther suppose, that you will tremble at passing the Styx with Old Charon, and grudge even the penny. And how will you be terrified at approaching the three stern judges! But I will not frighten you before your time. With a constitution impaired by the most extravagant indulgence, and inheriting a painful malady, it cannot be long ere you appear before the most awful of all tribunals. But as we are forbidden to give judgment, I shall only say, "The Lord have mercy upon you!"

When I informed Alderman Cracroft of your generous donations of my property, which you could not possibly have any claim to, but for the two thousand pounds lent me upon them; as you never gave any part of

this occasion you must at least allow, whatever I formerly had been, that I was totally obedient to your will. For, acceding to your intention, I entreated that you would permit me to call in some witnesses to the *Tragedy*, as I deemed it a crime that such an *exalted* character should make his exit with only *one* spectator.

Here you must acknowledge, that I gave you a proof of my not being *selfish*. You, however, soon retracted your tragic resolution, and put your sword into its scabbard. What a pity! Had you gone off thus heroically, you might have escaped the imputation of being a monster of ingratitude, and consequently a pest to society *.

I hear I am indebted to the falsehoods you have propagated relative to me, for being traduced in a wretched performance which made its appearance whilst I was in Ireland. It was said to be written by a being that calls himself a sea officer. But I can scarcely suppose, that any person who denominates himself a gentleman, would write such vile stuff of a woman he was never acquainted with, and who never injured him. I rather think it was some poor scribbler you had hired for that purpose.

* Private intelligence to those who may not know it.—Mr. Fox entrusted the gentleman with a conversation he had with his Royal Master, under an injunction of secrecy. And he imprudently divulged it, to the prejudice of his noble benefactor. Which not only occasioned those fine lines in Churchill, but a poem entitled “Ingratitude.”

This was your last trial of skill, and which carried with it the greatest probability of success, as you knew my partiality and gratitude for your ambassadress; who had not only been attentive to me, but had affectionately fostered my children. As I wish to be your *constant remembrancer*, I must here stop to put you in mind, that you faithfully promised me to settle twenty pounds a year upon her. But, as I have said before, you was always careful to forget every thing that you were not *interested* in. Pardon me, I mean only in lucrative objects; for a presumptuous pride, divested of spirit, made your recollection perfect enough, when you thought yourself neglected or despised. Yet you wanted the *proper pride* to resent the affront. For to the ferocity of the bear, you join his docility, when your interest requires it; and you would *dance*, I mean, *move* to any fiddle which tended to your emolument. You see I am willing to allow you all the good qualities you possess, in return for the many bad ones you have undeservedly loaded me with.

You afterwards forced yourself into my house; when assuming the affected agonies of *love*, (forgive me, thou chaste power, for daring to make use of thy sacred name, when speaking of a being incapable of feeling thy tender delicate sensations!) and finding all your fallacious endeavours useless, you attempted to destroy yourself. Upon

which is reprobated even by your dependents, and those who formerly kept you company. It appears, that you would rather have the imputation of folly, than of complete knavery; or else you would not have desired your intimate, Mr. *Single speech* †, to ask the honourable Mr. — whether the children were not his.

O, thou head of the Wrongheads! couldst thou be so simple as to imagine, that had this been really the case, he would have divulged it? I must, however, assure you, to my no small mortification, and *their disgrace*, that they are, *bona fide*, your own. And give me credit for the declaration, when I say, that I would have preferred the most abject being to your wretched self; who, in my opinion, are a compound of every vice, vulgarity, and meanness. But as your patriotic principles coincide with those of Mr. *Tother side*, this mistake, upon recollection, is not to be wondered at.

You have long made me suffer, in silence, the loss of the good opinion of the world, and the averted eye of cold contempt; but these, important as they are, cannot compare to the poignant torment of my mind. The deviation from virtue, even with a beloved object, is attended with severe reflection and remorse. How much more so must my

* Mr. H—— never spoke in parliament but once. Then, however, he spoke remarkably well.

sensations be, when, having been so many years the dupe of your artifices, I feel myself reduced to self-contempt, from being connected with a person who has been always the object of my dislike, but is now of my aversion.

I had like to have forgot the obligation I lie under to you for breaking open my cabinet, which I had ordered to be sent to my mother's. As you chose to keep the piece of furniture, you imagined the contents of it ought likewise to be your's. But being certain you could see nothing in it that could give you pleasure, I am inclinable to forgive you. I must say, however, that to presume to look into the confidential letters of any person, without permission, would shock any one who possessed the least degree of rectitude or propriety. But I forgot I was addressing you, who are insensible to both.

The use you made of this circumstance, which I have already mentioned, and have but lately acquired a knowledge of, does *you* infinite honour. And at the same time, the continued *esteem* and *lasting friendship* of the noble Earl, redound to mine. To mortify you still more, these are likely to continue, in despite of all your machinations. I take this opportunity to declare, that I never received a present from Lord Harrington, but of one fifty pounds; which I believe was in-
tended

tended as a return for the toys I purchased for Lord Peterſham.

But left this declaration ſhould be ſuppoſed to carry with it a deſire to be reſtored to Lady Harrington's good graces, I muſt beg leave to ſay, that I have already declined many invitations to Harrington-Houſe, from her ladyſhip herſelf; who thought fit to employ, upon the occaſion, a nobleman ſhe concluded I could not reſuſe. This was no leſs a perſonage than Comte Haſſang. But though I feel every ſenſation of gratitude for her ladyſhip, yet no inducement will ever prevail upon me to aſſociate with any perſon, be their diſtinction ever ſo high, who can harbour for a moment a ſuſpicion of that ſincerity I make my boaſt. As ſuch a condeſcenſion would leſſen me more, if poſſible, in my own opinion.

As I make no doubt but her ladyſhip will read this; and as I have reaſon to be aſſured of her partiality for me; if you are admitted into her houſe at this time, I think you may bid adieu to an *entrée* at that reſidence, I had every reſpect for the noble Earl at the Stable-yard; but it was ſo diſtant, that I never ſpoke to him in my life but at table. Nor can I put his attractions, either perſonal or mental, in competition with the one in queſtion; the qualities of whoſe mind and heart, make him eſteemed and revered
by

J. CALCRAFT, ESQ. 185

by all who have the happiness of knowing him.

Were it possible to enumerate your mean actions, they would fill volumes. One, however, of a singular kind, I must remind you of; and that is, your refusing to keep the horses which were given me; though when in town, you daily drove a pair of them.

When I sent you word, some short time since, that I was arrested for the champaign I had wrote for, *by your order*, to Mr. Woodfield, to send to Germany, you refused paying it, notwithstanding your clerk assured me, that you had set it down in the marquis's account. You refused to pay it; rightly judging, that I was under too many obligations to his lordship, to set such a trifle in competition with the favours he had conferred upon me; and you presumed likewise, upon his being in Germany at the time.

Further, when I was applied to by Mr. Finmore, for six and thirty pounds, for claret for your *own* table, through my indiscretion in *writing* for it, by your order likewise, I peremptorily refused to discharge it; notwithstanding your meanness in telling him, that I had ordered the wine for my own use, and therefore you would not pay for it. A circumstance you ought to have been ashamed to tell him, had I ever dealt with him. But you was conscious of the fallacy of the assertion; as, for the last four years I was in your house,

house, I had all the wine for my *own* company from Mr. Tourbeville, and *no other merchant*.

As a friend, I would advise you to settle this dirty affair as soon as possible, for I am determined to contest it. Not that you can stand in a more contemptible light than you do, for I may say of you, what Cato says of the Emperor,

“ Cæsar aſham’d? Has he not ſeen Pharfalia ?”

As to myſelf, you are ſenſible I never drank any wine before my illneſs, but what was diluted: and that illneſs was occaſioned by your *exceſs of love*, as you termed it. From ſuch *exceſſes*, good Lord deliver me, and all thoſe unhappy beings, who are deceived by ſuch reptiles as yourſelf!

Though rather out of due courſe, I have reſerved ſome of your *chief d’ouevres* for a *bonne bouche*. I ſhall begin with the affair of Mr. Sparks. You entered into a joint bond with me to Sparks, for four hundred pounds which I borrowed of him, to pay Mr. Smith of the Exchequer. For this upon your pleading want of money, you gave a freſh bond, and put off the payment till the year following. And after our ſeparation, you moſt unmanly reported, that you had given me the money to diſcharge the debt. This was one of the moſt ridiculous falſhoods you ever advanced.

vanced. It is evident to a person of the weakest understanding, that had you given me the money, you certainly would not have renewed the obligation. An assertion of this kind is but a trifle to you, for you are so accustomed to untruths, that you seldom startle at the most glaring.

But in order to set this affair in a clear light, it will be necessary for me to repeat an event, which, though it may afford a proof of my indiscretion, I hope will not blacken my heart. Upon my having lost a considerable sum at play, I requested you to lend me four hundred pounds till my benefit. Be so good as to recollect, that this was not upon Sparks's account. When I made the request, you told me that you would grant it, on condition that I would stay at home the same evening. Nay, you went farther; for you desired a female intimate to inform me, that you would pay all my debts in the morning, if I would cease to be cruel.

Though I shuddered at the proposal, as I should have done at the sight of a basilisk, yet necessity made me consent, as I had company of my own to pass the evening. Soon after eleven o'clock, Lady H——n called in, and insisted that I should accompany her to a party in Arlington-street. You had then lent me the money, and claimed my promise; but the two female friends, who had spent the evening with us, preparing for home, and her
ladyship

ladyship strongly urging me to attend her, I accepted her invitation, and left you to indulge your own pleasant fancies.

It being a very fine morning, and my chair being at Harrington-house, we all agreed to run down the Green Park. Here I have every reason to believe I lost my pocket-book; as the nobleman who honoured me with his arm, noticed the jingling of something in my pocket, and pleasantly enquired if I carried the keys of the house about me. This noise I apprehend was owing to the lock, which, in dancing, had brought up the book. I am the more confirmed in this conjecture, as a gentleman of known veracity, acquainted me, that he saw a person pick up the book. By this you see, I allow, that I kept very early hours.

This loss of mine was not known for some time to any person in the family, except Clifford and myself, notwithstanding it was advertised, with the offer of a handsome reward, exclusive of the bank-notes it contained, for a paper which was in it. How you got possession of *that paper*, or the advantage you made of it, I leave to your own feelings. Though, indeed, your heart is callous to every proper sensation, and I could wish to explain this fact, more fully to display your *restitution*; I shall, however, only say with Oroonoko, "*Our gods have no punishment for such unheard-of crimes.*"

The

The bills you at that time lent me, you have since affirmed, were given me to pay Mr. Sparks. How then came you afterwards to demand the money of me, and absolutely to receive it at the stipulated time? It was very improbable I should borrow money to take up your bond. But you well know, it was borrowed to pay Mr. Shaftoe a play debt. To my shame I own it. What is in its nature wrong, no words can palliate. I am above the low art of endeavouring to extenuate my faults. I have made the world my confidante ever since I launched into it, and after so many years of ingenuousness, it would be folly in the extreme to attempt to do so. But to you I cannot be responsible, as the misery you have brought upon me, deserves the most unlimited contempt and reprobation.

It would not only be absurd, but fruitless, to affect mystery. Had not your great affection induced you to load me with obloquy, the world would not have supposed me culpable in leaving you. Though I must acknowledge, that the generality of mankind usually give larger credit for error than any other commodity; and I have been favoured, through your generous assistance, with over-measure for my indiscretions.

You well know, that the first six years of our connection, I was totally insensible to happiness, and in a perpetual bustle to promote

mote your interest. The last four were perfectly miserable; and it cannot be a matter of surprise, that I ran into dissipation to avoid thought. In this, however, as I have already said, I was only culpable to the world and myself, as you could not possibly have any right to censure my conduct. My hatred was invincible; and I never entered your detested residence, but with the most piercing regret. Even my children almost displeased, from their unfortunate proximity to you.

As your affianced wife, you must own that I did *more* than my duty. And had I really loved you, I could not have been more anxious, either to promote your interest, to hide your ignorance, or to curb your intemperance. The latter generally ended, with my being employed in the pleasing avocation of a nurse. And even in that I could not please, as you well knew it was not from affection that I tended you, but from what I then thought my duty.

I shall now, in order to convince the world of the obligations I *really* lie under to you, take a retrospective view of the pecuniary transactions which have passed between us. In the first place, I shall enumerate the sums I have received from you, and then, *per contra*, set down the advantages that have arisen to you from our union.

If the bank-notes I received in the blank cover came from you, which is very much to
be

be doubted, I am to stand indebted to you for that 1000 l.—Towards the expences of a ball which I gave on your daughter's birthday, you sent me 105 l.—You made me a present of your picture, in miniature, set with rose diamonds, value 20 l.—You likewise gave me a second-hand repeater, which cost 35 l.—You paid for new-setting a diamond sprig 90 l.—You settled on me an annuity of one hundred and twenty pounds; but as not one year of it has been paid, I cannot consider myself as indebted to you for it.—I received, to give up the contract bond, and to drop the suit commenced against you for the diamonds sold by Jeffries, 200 l.—You granted me an additional annuity of one hundred pounds a year, which I received for four years; the amount consequently is 400 l.—You say, that the expences attending my indispositions whilst with you, but for which I have only your bare *ipse dixit*, amounted to the sum of 900 l.—These are all the sums of money that you expended, or are supposed to have expended, upon me during our connection.

Now behold the other side—were I to be paid by you for the six years slavery I underwent with you, and the four years misery, it would amount, at the most reasonable calculation, to a very considerable sum; but for that I shall leave a blank—To proceed to articles for which I can make a charge
—There

—There is due to me upon the receipts for the diamonds, allowing thirteen hundred pounds paid for the fashion, 3000l.—Had the annuity of one hundred and twenty pounds been regularly paid, it would have amounted for the sixteen years due, to 1920l.—I expended, during my residence with you, eight years receipts at the theatres, amounting to 9600l.—You received General Braddock's Agency, which you had upon my account, four years, at three hundred pounds per annum, 1200l.—The General likewise left you upon his decease, concluding that we were married, full 7000l.—Lord Tyrawley's Agency, which you procured through me, and of which you promised me the emoluments, brought you in at least five hundred pounds yearly, for seven years, which amounts to 3500l.—General Mordaunt's, which you procured by the same means, yielded you three hundred a year for six years, 1800l.—General Lascelles's, the same sum yearly for nine years, 2700l.—You had of mine five coach and two saddle horses, worth 250l.—Together with a town chariot quite new, which cost 147l.—I paid for Champagne, which agreeable to your request I wrote for to send the Marquis of Granby, and which you charged to his lordship's account, 80l.—I expended upon your brother, Captain Calcraft, at the Academy, and for other necessaries, 350l.—I likewise paid for clothes, &c. for your sister,
during

during six years, the sum of 400l.—I paid Mrs. Jordan's bill for *real* necessaries, 160l.—I laid out in building a hot-house, ice-house, &c. at Hollwood, upon the supposition that it would be mine and my daughter's after me, 400l.—To this, by way of concluding article, I may add, that I saved during the fire in Channel-Row, your books, furniture, and thirteen hundred pounds in cash, from the hands of the mob.

Having thus enumerated the different items, I will leave you, who are so great an adept in figures, to draw the balance. You will soon see, that it is *greatly* in my favour; and I request that you will send me a draft for the sum as soon as possible, in order to conclude all transactions between us.

I thought to have concluded here: but you must permit me just to add, that I have often been tempted to think there was not a fallen angel in all Pandemonium, to which I could not resemble a living character. * You, however, in this similitude, transcend every other mortal; for you have pride equal to *Lucifer*, though you want his spirit; to which are added the turbulence of *Moloch*,

* When this is considered as the ebullition of resentment, from a person smarting under the most aggravating injuries, and which has long since subsided; due allowance, it is to be hoped, will be made for the severity of it.

and the avarice of *Mammon*.—You see I am still desirous of introducing you into good company.

It was very impolitic in you to send your brother to me, to dissuade me from publishing this letter. You supposed that my regard for him would prevent me from exposing him in his relation; but no power on earth shall prevent me from doing it. If I am amenable to the laws of my country, for making known, in this manner, my injuries and your perfidy, carry your threats into execution. No martyr that ever suffered in the cause of religion, resigned themselves to their fate with greater cheerfulness. Even death shall not deter me.

Before I conclude, I most solemnly assure you, that neither Mr. Woodward nor Mr. Kelly, who I find are the marked objects of your resentment, ever saw, heard, or read a single line of this letter; and that I have neither been abetted or assisted by any living creature; nor has any person whatever perused a line of it, but one gentleman, who took the trouble of reading four pages; when being tired of so worthless a subject, he threw it down, in order to pursue his favourite study of alchymy, with his researches after the Philosopher's Stone.

Yet let me again protest to you, that every article which I am acquainted with, and
which

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which you are so apprehensive about, is as
securely locked in my breast as it is in your
bosom—So farewell—“ Read this, and
“ then to breakfast with what appetite you
“ may.”

G. A. BELLAMY.

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